

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig | Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

Bil Datblygu Twristiaeth a Rheoleiddio Llety Ymwelwyr (Cymru) | Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

Evidence from: National Trust

1. What are your views on the general principles of the Bill, and whether there is a need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

The National Trust supports the introduction of legislation which provides a level playing field for all holiday accommodation and provides reassurance to guests that they are staying in a safe environment.

2. What are your views on the Bill's provisions, including whether they are workable and will deliver the stated policy intention?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

There needs to be a consistent approach to all self-catering providers for this to work and no exceptions on the number of nights let, e.g. those who only let their homes during the Hay Festival, the Eisteddfod, Chepstow race week or other events. The policy must be applicable to all to ensure the objectives of the Bill are not diluted or impacted by rogue one-off letting arrangements.

There may need to be different levels of documentation required depending on the type of accommodation, e.g. cottages, hotels with cottages onsite, bothies, bunkhouses, hostels and beach huts.

3. In your view, are there any potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill's provisions?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

Lack of consistency.

Workload in uploading all the documents, especially if an organisation has a number of assets. There needs to be administration support provided as per the Visitor Ready scheme.

4. Do you feel there will be any unintended consequences arising from the Bill?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

Some providers may choose to go under the radar to avoid the scheme, only advertising on social media or promoting to repeat guests. This is a common piece of feedback from providers in Scotland where a similar scheme has been implemented.

Any fines for non-compliance should be reinvested into tourism in Wales. The industry will want a guarantee that the money is ring-fenced for that purpose with reporting on the income and expenditure generated by the scheme to be assured it is not being spent on pot-holes (as an example).

The cost of registration must be reasonable and proportionate to avoid further costs to an industry that is already suffering with increased costs.

5. What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial and other impacts of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

The cost of registration needs to be fair and proportionate and also needs to consider all the other costs providers in Wales are going to have to bear, e.g. with system development work for the introduction of the Visitor Levy, increased administration costs and increasing running costs. If training is mandatory, it should be offered free of charge and covered by the revenue raised from the registration fee.

6. What are your views on the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Part 1: Chapter 5 of the Explanatory Memorandum)?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

Many of the items in Chapter 5 seem to allow for decisions to be made without industry consultation. This should not be the case. The industry knows what is happening on the ground and should be consulted about future changes to ensure the changes are reasonable, workable and not detrimental to providers or guests.

7. Are there any other issues you would like to raise about the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words).

We believe the costs need to be kept to a minimum to assist an industry which continues to be overcome with increasing costs, both operating and legislative. The industry supports tourism in Wales. However, increased costs could ultimately lead to these being passed on to guests who may choose to holiday elsewhere or to providers closing down and therefore diminishing the choices for guests who want to stay in Wales.