

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 ScoutsCymru

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**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).

ScoutsCymru agrees with the general principles of the Bill encouraging higher standards for tourism-based accommodation. It is essential that accommodation is safe and facilities meet an acceptable standard as this encourages sustainable tourism and local communities to experience its benefits. We also appreciate the Bill's exemption of bunkhouses, camping barns and campsites from the definition of regulated visitor accommodation. This exemption for the kinds of sites we utilise for our educational programme will prevent the significant administrative burden that would be placed on our volunteers, who oversee the management and running of these facilities.

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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).

ScoutsCymru agrees with the general principles of the Bill encouraging higher standards for tourism-based accommodation. It is essential that accommodation is safe and facilities meet an acceptable standard as this encourages sustainable tourism and local communities to experience its benefits. We also appreciate the Bill’s exemption of bunkhouses, camping barns and campsites from the definition of regulated visitor accommodation. This exemption for the kinds of sites we utilise for our educational programme will prevent the significant administrative burden that would be placed on our volunteers, who oversee the management and running of these facilities.

However, we are concerned and cautious about the conferment of power via regulations set out within the bill, particularly the ability for Ministers to specify additional types of regulated visitor accommodation as set out in Part 1: Chapter 5(1)(b) of the Explanatory Memorandum. While we understand the need for Senedd approval does enable further consideration of the implications, the lack of reference to a consultation with stakeholders who may be affected, could result in unintended, negative consequences. If, for example, the decision was taken to extend the definition of regulated visitor accommodation to include outdoor facilities such as those used by thousands of young people of all ages across Wales, it could place a disproportionate administrative and operational burden on volunteers who both run the management of and visits to these sites. This could lead to the reduction of visits to the sites, potentially affecting the long-term sustainability of the sites themselves, but also limiting valuable developmental opportunities for children and young people, something we must have the opportunity to convey to the Senedd and relevant Ministers during the decision-making process.

Therefore, we call for a requirement for consultation before such measures are introduced due to the impactful nature their introduction may have on organisations such as ScoutsCymru. This would ensure that where prospective policies are being considered, relevant organisations are able to express the full impact their introduction could have and mitigate any potential negative consequences while still supporting the Bill’s broader aim of raising standards of tourist accommodation.

**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).