



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Marc Crothall MBE,
Chief Executive,
Scottish Tourism Alliance,
By email only

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

5 July 2023

Dear Marc,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June in which you set out some of the challenges faced by the tourism and hospitality industry in responding to our call for views on the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill by our deadline of 1 September. The Committee fully appreciates that the summer is obviously a particularly busy period for the sector which is why we opted for a longer than usual consultation period of ten weeks for this inquiry.

The Parliament has yet to formally decide on the stage 1 deadline for the Bill and as such, our own timescales for consideration remain unclear. However, we are working on the basis that we will begin taking oral evidence on the Bill in October. The stakeholders we wish to invite to give oral evidence will be largely dependent on the written submissions received and as such, we need to factor in sufficient time for a thorough analysis of responses and the drafting of briefing papers by officials to help inform our decisions and wider scrutiny. However, given the obvious pressures on your members at this time of year, the Committee has agreed to extend the deadline for responses by two weeks to Friday 15 September. It is unlikely to be possible to incorporate any responses received after this deadline into briefing materials for the Committee, although any relevant correspondence received after the deadline would still be shared with members and published on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in helping bring our call for views to as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. Thanks also for sharing a link to the key findings of your recent industry survey which provides some extremely helpful data on the views of those working in the sector.

I look forward to continuing to engage with you as our scrutiny of the Bill progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ariane Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'B'.

Ariane Burgess
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee