



Dear [MP Name],

I am writing on behalf of the Shropshire Chamber of Commerce regarding the Government's ongoing discussions around the proposed "Overnight Visitor Levy" in England, often referred to as a tourism or visitor tax.

As we understand it, the current proposal would allow Mayoral Strategic Authorities to introduce local levies on overnight accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, holiday lets, campsites and other short-term stays. While this is not currently a national tax, and there is no immediate indication that it would apply within Shropshire in the short term, the proposal is already generating significant concern across the hospitality and tourism sectors nationally.

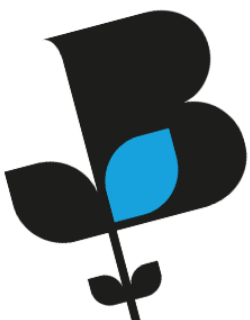
Businesses are expressing concerns around:

- Increased costs for visitors and staycations
- Additional pressure on already stretched hospitality businesses
- Potential impacts on visitor numbers and tourism demand
- Wider competitiveness challenges for UK destinations

These concerns come at a time when many businesses are already managing substantial economic pressures, including:

- Rising employment costs
- Increased energy prices
- Ongoing supply chain pressures
- Inflationary challenges
- Continued investment requirements to remain competitive

Tourism and hospitality remain critically important to the Shropshire economy, supporting a wide range of businesses, employment opportunities and local supply chains across the county. As such, there is understandable concern around any future measures that could risk discouraging visitors or adding further financial strain to the sector.



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At this stage, we are not seeking to create unnecessary alarm locally, particularly given that Shropshire does not currently fall within the proposed governance structures. However, we believe it is important that these discussions are closely monitored and that the views of rural and visitor-dependent economies such as Shropshire are fully considered as conversations progress nationally.

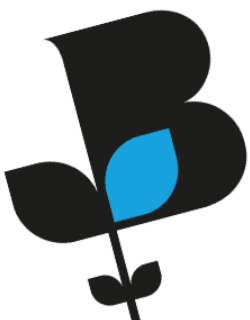
We would welcome the opportunity to understand your views on the proposals and would appreciate any updates you are able to share regarding how the Government intends to engage with the hospitality and tourism sector as discussions develop.

Thank you for your continued support of the Shropshire business community, and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively on issues affecting local businesses and the wider regional economy.

Kind regards,



Ruth Ross
CEO



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