



Stuart Anderson MP
Member of Parliament for South Shropshire

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Ruth Ross
CEO
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Trevithick House
Stafford Park 4
Telford
TF3 3BA

Our Ref: SA44608

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Dear Ruth,

Thank you for contacting me about Labour's proposal to introduce a visitor levy in England.

The Government have confirmed that they will legislate to give mayors (and potentially other local leaders) the power to introduce new overnight visitor levies in England. Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, described this move as 'a groundbreaking step for the future of devolution, with transformative investment potential for England's tourism sector and the wider economy.' I am also aware that the Scottish and Welsh parliaments have both passed legislation permitting their local authorities to introduce a visitor levy.

My position on this is clear: the introduction of a visitor levy in England would be detrimental to a hospitality sector which has already been repeatedly targeted by this Labour Government. If the Government truly wanted to bring investment into the sector and boost the wider economy, they would cut tax, not raise it. It is utterly ludicrous to think that hiking prices for holidaymakers would benefit businesses and communities who rely on bringing in tourists. The tax would also significantly increase the cost of holidays for my constituents here in South Shropshire who are already struggling with the soaring cost of living.

The Conservatives in Opposition are fighting against this policy. I completely agree with the comments made by my Conservative colleague Andrew Griffith MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade, in this regard. Businesses are already on their knees due to Labour's dreadful economic policy, and 'their plans for a holiday tax will hit families and drive trade away from our towns and communities'. I will use my position in Parliament to stand up for South Shropshire's hospitality businesses and oppose this policy.

Thank you again for having taken the time to contact me about this.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Anderson MP

Listening, supporting, delivering for South Shropshire

75a High St, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX | 54 Broad St, Ludlow, SY8 1GP

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk | Web: www.stuartanderson.org.uk | Tel: +44 (0)1746 555025