

[REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: For clearance - Edinburgh tourist tax - BBC

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution

Sent: 29 January 2018 16:07

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: For clearance - Edinburgh tourist tax - BBC

[REDACTED],

Mr Mackay is content with the below.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] | Deputy Private Secretary to Derek Mackay MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution |
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] | E: CabSecFC@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 January 2018 15:57

To: Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: For clearance - Edinburgh tourist tax - BBC

PO,

BBC Radio Scotland (Newsdrive) have asked for a comment to the Edinburgh City Council's decision to move forward with the tourist tax – see:

- <https://news.co.uk/news/uk/edinburgh-tourism-tax-plans-raise-millions-events-city-unveiled-within-weeks/>

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-38676936>

We have agreed the following with officials and SpAds. Grateful for an indication whether the Cabinet Secretary is content with the lines. Also, apologies for the short notice, but I would like clearance before 4.45 pm, if possible, as this is the deadline indicated by BBC.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

"It is important that we build on the success of Scotland's flourishing tourism sector and that any initiatives to maximise the economic return is taken forward in full consultation with the tourism and hospitality industry."

Thanks,



[REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: Tourist Tax

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2018 15:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Tourist Tax

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2018 14:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Tourist Tax

[REDACTED]

- 1 No officials meeting had yet - Now we have the back stop of Cab Secretary meeting, we can organise the officials and copy you in to
- 2 Will be recirculating draft paper to all involved – [REDACTED]
- 3 Will copy you into paper as first circulated to Officials

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2J - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

[Redacted]



year of young people
2018

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 30 January 2018 14:23
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Tourist Tax

[Redacted]

Help... see below...

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 30 January 2018 14:22
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Tourist Tax

Hi

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Happy to join this meeting but will need to see the paper first.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 30 January 2018 14:06
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Tourist Tax

[Redacted]

Are you available to meet with the Cab Sec and Tourism team officials regarding the tourist tax next Thursday (8th) at 15.30 at the Parliament?

Thanks.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Sent: 30 January 2018 13:59

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: RE: Tourist Tax

Hi [REDACTED]

Ms Hyslop has time next week on Thursday 8th February at 15:30, does this suit?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Diary)
Office of Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Telephone: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2018 07:29
To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: FW: Tourist Tax

Hi [REDACTED]

Ms Hyslop has requested a meeting with officials and SpADS to discuss the tourist tax.

Please advise when Ms Hyslop is available for this meeting.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 05:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Tourist Tax

Hi [REDACTED]

As per earlier Can Sec would like a meeting with SG officials including those in other divisions and SpAds to discuss. Please can you arrange with [REDACTED].

Thank you
[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 January 2018 14:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Tourist Tax

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 11:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tourist Tax

Hi

I've seen the article in the Scotsman about Edinburgh CC unveiling plans in the next few weeks for a tourist tax, to then be discussed with business.

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |
[REDACTED]



Subject:

FW: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018
UPDATE

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 11 July 2018 15:58

To: [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
<CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work <CabSecFEFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Local
Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
<CabSecRE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018 UPDATE

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for providing this update.

As discussed the Cabinet Secretary has noted this [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Copying in the Minister for Parly Business inbox

as I know this has been flagged to them as well.

The Cab Sec will be on leave after this week so if we can aim to get further advice back for her consideration by the end of the month that would be appreciated.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [REDACTED] | M: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 July 2018 12:54

To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy; [REDACTED]

Subject: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018 UPDATE

[REDACTED]

Update for Cabinet Secretary, answering the questions embedded in 26 June response

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



year of young people
bladhna na h-òigridh
2018

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 26 June 2018 15:54

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Minister for Local Government and Housing; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURISM LEVY PROPOSALS UPDATE

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your submission. Ms Hyslop is content to agree, [REDACTED] I believe she raised this at the High Level Tourism Working Group.

I've attached the submission with some comments/questions cab sec had.

Also – Ms Hyslop has asked if we can please stop referring to this as the Bed Tax – can we stick to Tourist Tax or Tourism Tax?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 June 2018 16:13

To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Minister for Local Government and Housing; [REDACTED]

Subject: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURISM LEVY PROPOSALS UPDATE

[REDACTED]

As discussed - Routine Submission on Bed Tax proposals for Tourism Levy

<< File: Tourism - Transient Visitor Levy in Edinburgh - Update and Next Steps - 22 June 2018.docx >>
Separate 25-page Annex B of earlier 22 March submission (if required)

<< File: ANNEX B - Tourism - Bed Tax Update - 22 March 2018.docx >>

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events

Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

[REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: SpAds - Tourist tax - P&J

From: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser

Sent: 23 February 2018 17:30

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: SpAds - Tourist tax - P&J

Ok with me.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 February 2018 16:56

To: Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: SpAds - Tourist tax - P&J

SpAds

Cosla have voted to start lobbying SG for the introduction of the tourist tax and the P&J have asked for a statement from SG in response. The following lines were previously cleared in response to a query on the tourist tax and look appropriate this time around. Policy have confirmed they would be content for this to issue.

Any further comments?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government."

Background

Local authorities do not have the power to introduce a tourist tax. Establishing such a power would require an act of the Scottish Parliament.

[REDACTED]
Newsdesk

Scottish Government
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 February 2018 16:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: COSLA decision

Hi there,

Cosla have unanimously decided to lobby the Scottish Government for the introduction of the tourist tax (<https://twitter.com/COSLA?lang=en-gb>) . Would the Scottish Government like to comment? Will you now consider it?

My deadline is 6pm however my colleague [REDACTED] is on nightshift. Can you please copy myself and [REDACTED] into any response?

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
Local Government Reporter

The Press and Journal

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Subject:

FW: Lines for info: tourist tax

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 30 May 2018 14:38

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
<CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution <CabSecFC@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines for info: tourist tax

Thanks [REDACTED], Ms Hyslop has noted.

[REDACTED] | Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Telephone: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 May 2018 17:22

To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Lines for info: tourist tax

PO,

For awareness, the Herald asked for our response to the below news release from City of Edinburgh Council. I have re-issued the following previously cleared lines.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

“We continue to deliver a fair deal to councils across Scotland, with revenue and capital funding increasing in real terms over the next financial year.”

Background

Local authorities do not have the power to introduce a tourist tax. Establishing such a power would require an act of the Scottish Parliament.

Thanks

██████████ | Duty Communications Officer | Scottish Government | ██████████



Date 25/May/2018

Status For Immediate Release

NEW RESEARCH STRENGTHENS CASE FOR A TVL

A Transient Visitor Levy would not deter tourists from visiting the Capital, according to research published today by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The findings point to a strongly performing hospitality sector with some of the highest occupancy rates in Europe that, in line with other popular international destinations, could comfortably absorb the impact of a small price rise.

It is estimated that a charge of £1 per person per night could generate over £11 million each year but, depending on the mechanism used, the additional income could be as high as £29 million.

The desk-based exercise, which examined the Edinburgh accommodation sector, the policy context, and examples of a similar TVL in other cities, also highlights ways in which the revenue could be invested into local services to the benefit of residents, visitors and the tourist industry itself, such as investing in parks, public spaces, clean streets and reduced ticket prices for cultural attractions.

The Council has long campaigned for the powers to introduce a TVL and this research, which will be debated by councillors at a meeting next Thursday (31 May), is designed to support further engagement with key stakeholders and the development of a detailed proposal to be presented to the Scottish Government later this year.

Next steps in building the case include a round-table discussion with industry stakeholders to discuss the details of what an Edinburgh scheme could reasonably look like and options for implementing it, followed by further research into the views of residents and visitors, conducted during July and August in partnership with Marketing Edinburgh.

Council leader, Adam McVey, said: "First of all, it is important to point out that this would not be a tax on business; rather a small contribution by tourists towards the services they use during their stay with us. Edinburgh welcomes millions of visitors each year who bring investment, diversity and energy to our city but they also bring a cost in terms of the impact on our core services.

“This research demonstrates that not only is a TVL unlikely to adversely affect Edinburgh’s hotel industry, but that handled correctly, it can help to secure the ongoing sustainability and health of tourism in the city.

“I understand that there are those who remain to be convinced but I can assure them that this is only the beginning of a considered, thoughtful and professional engagement with our partners across the tourist and hotel industry, the people of Edinburgh and the tourists who would ultimately pay the levy.”

Deputy leader, Cammy Day, added: “Clearly, in order to sustain the most successful hospitality sector per head in the world, we need to continue to invest in the areas that make the city a success story – and we know from previous engagement work that the principle of a TVL enjoys broad support amongst residents and the cultural community as a means of contributing to this.

“We will publish further details of our proposals in the coming weeks and I would encourage everyone with an interest in this to take the opportunity to consider the information we are presenting and to have a voice in the debate.”

John Donnelly, Chief Executive, Marketing Edinburgh, said: “We need to find a solution that balances Edinburgh’s growing tourism demand against our shrinking public budgets. Transient Visitor Levies are used widely throughout the world and to great effect, raising significant amounts of money. These funds are then able to be reinvested into public services, to the benefit of both residents and visitors.

“If it works for Paris, Amsterdam and Rome, then why not Edinburgh? The amount contributed per visitor is tiny – it would have no impact upon our increasing visitor appeal. Indeed, I’m unaware of evidence that would indicate anything other than a positive effect on the city.

“Over the coming weeks and months, it is important for us to learn from others, to come together and to explore the best possible case for TVL.”

In parallel, Leaders across all 32 Scottish Local Authorities are today expected to agree and launch a campaign to secure the legal power for local government to implement a levy. This signals increasing support across the political spectrum for the principle of local discretion to propose and implement a TVL.

-ends-

Mike Pinkerton, Media Manager
0131 529 6151 or 07795 828 707
michael.pinkerton@edinburgh.gov.uk

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Subject:

FW: FOR AWARENESS: Media Enquiry - Tourist Tax - Inverness Courier

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 27 June 2018 13:04

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs <CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications CTEA <CommunicationsCTEA@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: Media Enquiry - Tourist Tax - Inverness Courier

Thanks [REDACTED]

Ms Hyslop has noted.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 June 2018 11:46

To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: Communications CTEA; [REDACTED]

Subject: FOR AWARENESS: Media Enquiry - Tourist Tax - Inverness Courier

Cab Sec - For awareness;

Highland Council have called for the introduction of a tourist tax.

The following standard lines have been reissued to the Inverness Courier.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

"We continue to deliver a fair deal to councils across Scotland, with revenue and capital funding increasing in real terms over the next financial year."

Background

Local authorities do not have the power to introduce a tourist tax. Establishing such a power would require an act of the Scottish Parliament.



[REDACTED]
Newsdesk | Scottish Government | 3W | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | E
[REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: Media Enquiry - Tourist Tax - Sun/BBC/Times

From: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 04 July 2018 13:57

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
<CabSecFEFW@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] Communications CTEA <CommunicationsCTEA@gov.scot>; Communications
Economy <CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Media Enquiry - Tourist Tax - Sun/BBC/Times

Hi [REDACTED]

Cab sec is content

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 July 2018 20:03
To: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
Cc: News Desk; Communications CTEA; Communications Economy; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cabinet
Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: Media Enquiry - Tourist Tax - Sun/BBC/Times

PO/Cab Sec,

We have been approached the Sun, BBC Scotland and The Times about Edinburgh City Council's plans to implement a tourist tax following the Twitter engagement between Ms Hyslop and Cllr McVey this morning.

<https://twitter.com/FionaHyslop/status/1014414517860782080>

Comms and SPADs would recommend reissuing the below lines. Is the Cab Sec content with this approach?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

“We continue to deliver a fair deal to councils across Scotland, with revenue and capital funding increasing in real terms over the next financial year.”

Background

Local authorities do not have the power to introduce a tourist tax. Establishing such a power would require an act of the Scottish Parliament.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Newsdesk

Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Embargoed: Transient Visitor Tax...

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 04 July 2018 16:18

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Embargoed: Transient Visitor Tax

FYI

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 04 July 2018 11:23

To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]

Cc: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Embargoed: Transient Visitor Tax

Hi [REDACTED]

Will you be ok to firstly discuss this with the Legislation team (I've copied in [REDACTED] and the rest of the team) and also with SGLD before advising ministers?

Thanks,

[REDACTED] | Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans | T4.21,
Scottish Parliament | T: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 02 July 2018 15:50

To: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans; [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Subject: FW: Embargoed: Transient Visitor Tax

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence)

Office of Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Scottish Government, Room 2N.15, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I
www.gov.scot

From: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP [<mailto:Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>]
Sent: 27 June 2018 10:15
To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: FW: Embargoed: Transient Visitor Tax

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2018 08:01
Subject: Embargoed: Transient Visitor Tax

Sent to: All MSPs
EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM

Dear MSP,

Later this morning COSLA will release the attached document outlining our ask that local authorities should be empowered with the discretion to introduce a Transient Visitor Tax if the circumstances were right for their local community. Also attached is COSLA's Press Release.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Vicki Bibby, Chief Officer for Finance (vicki@cosla.gov.uk), Gillian Fyfe, Policy Manager Environment and Economy (gillian@cosla.gov.uk) or by reply to myself.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

COSLA

CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Verity House
19 Haymarket Yards
Edinburgh EH12 5BH

[REDACTED]

www.cosla.gov.uk

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Subject:

FW: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 July 2018 15:13

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Communications ICC <CommunicationsICC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

It should really be Mr Mackay as although tourism, tax is not Cab Sec's.

Should go to him. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 July 2018 14:37

To: Bowman K (Katy); [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

Thanks [REDACTED] for the lines.

[REDACTED] – just to confirm, are you happy for us to re-issue these lines? Do you want us to send to Ms Hyslop for further clearance? It is my understanding these will need to go out in her name.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 July 2018 13:56

To: [REDACTED] Communications ICC; [REDACTED]

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

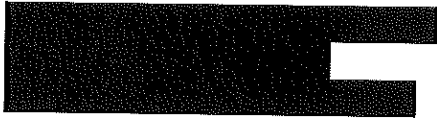
[REDACTED]
Last two bullets are the ones we have used previously

Our position remains consistent in that the Scottish Government has no plans to introduce a levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

Scottish Ministers have also been clear that we will not consider requests to explore a Tourist Tax unless the tourism and hospitality industry are involved from the outset and their long-term interests are fully recognised."

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tourism and Major Events Division

Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



year of young people
Glasgow and the Clyde
2018

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 11:18
To: [REDACTED] Communications ICC; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

We should just issue the line pre-cleared by Mr Mackay.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 11:11
To: [REDACTED] Communications ICC; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax



No deadline mentioned



Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



year of young people
Glasgow and the Clyde
2018

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 11:10
To: [REDACTED] Communications ICC; Bowman K (Katy); [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

Thanks [REDACTED]

Content with the lines below and the reply. Would prefer to issue lines, unless necessary to go with the letter, but grateful for further views from officials/[REDACTED]. What is the journalist's deadline?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 11:03
To: Communications ICC <CommunicationsICC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs <CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

Morning

Unsure if SPADs or Media clearance on this one, but to see email trail below.

Cab Sec CTEA has been approached by [REDACTED] from Media World for statement on CEC Tourist Tax proposal. He asks

"Amidst what appears to be contradictory and confusing reporting on the issue, I'm going to attempt to break it down for our readers in terms of simply whether this is likely to materialise anytime soon or not.

Would you be available for me to give you a call about it early next week, or perhaps you could send me a short statement outlining the Scottish government's stance?"

He's writing an article for the on-line Trade mag Hotel Scotland, so rather than just issuing the usual line to take, have given bit more context in attached polite reply. He will then have access to latest tourism stats to bulk out article. If we decide to revert to Lines, suggest the following

"Scottish Ministers job is to ensure there's an open and wide-ranging discussion, based on all the available evidence, and that all voices and viewpoints get heard on what is a very significant proposal – not just for Edinburgh, but for all of Scotland's visitor economy.

Our position therefore remains consistent in that the Scottish Government has no plans to introduce a levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

However, Scottish Ministers have also been clear that we will not consider requests to explore a Tourist Tax unless the tourism and hospitality industry are involved from the outset and their long-term interests are fully recognised."

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



year of young people
Ungbhonnan na h-Alba
2018

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Sent: 20 July 2018 15:19
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: FW: editorial enquiry

[REDACTED]

Can you take this on please?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence)
Office of Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Scottish Government, Room 2N.15, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I
www.gov.scot

From: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP [<mailto:Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>]
Sent: 20 July 2018 09:46
To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: FW: editorial enquiry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2018 14:45
To: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP <Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: editorial enquiry

Hello Fiona

I'm writing a feature on the proposed Edinburgh tourist tax for the next issue of Hotel Scotland magazine - a trade publication for hoteliers

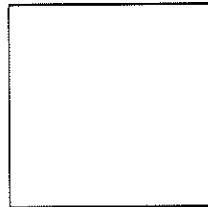
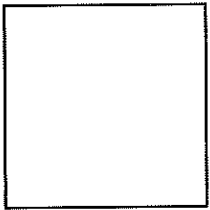
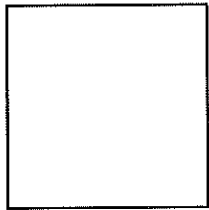
Amidst what appears to be contradictory and confusing reporting on the issue, I'm going to attempt to break it down for our readers in terms of simply whether this is likely to materialise anytime soon or not.

Would you be available for me to give you a call about it early next week, or perhaps you could send me a short statement outlining the Scottish government's stance?

Many thanks

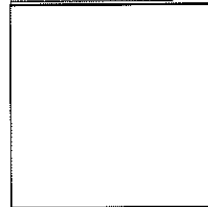


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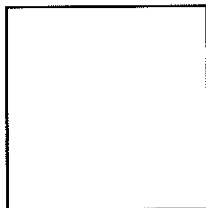
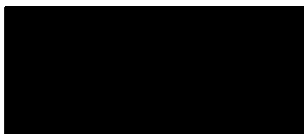


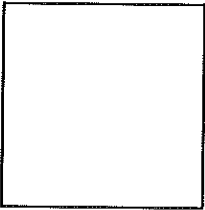
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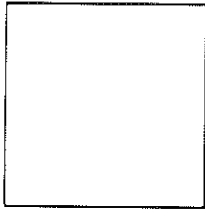


[DramScotland](https://twitter.com/DramScotland)

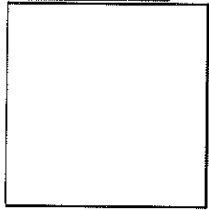




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T: [REDACTED]
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Your ref:
Our ref: A21661046
July 2018

Thank you for your letter of email of 19 July about City of Edinburgh Council and their proposals for a Tourist Tax.

If I could first provide some wider context around the discussion which might help the readers of Hotel Scotland.

It's important to say that the Scottish Government continues to deliver a fair deal to councils across Scotland. The City of Edinburgh Council will receive £801.4 million of Scottish Government funding in 2018-19, and with a 3% increase in council tax, that means an additional £24.7 million to support local day-to-day services.

The Scottish Government remains committed to the sustainable growth of the tourism sector. The importance of the tourism and hospitality sector is demonstrated again and again – the most recent figures for 2017 show that there was a 4.3 per cent increase in tourism visits to Scotland (overseas and domestic combined) in 2017 compared to 2016. There was also an 11 per cent increase in combined tourism expenditure in Scotland.

That's 14.8 million visitors spending £5.2 billion in one year, right across the country – often in some of our most remote and rural communities.

Overall the industry has continued to grow, with the latest Scottish Annual Business Statistics showing that, in 2016, GVA in the tourism-related industries sector in Scotland amounted to £3.9 billion (an increase of 8.4 per cent on 2015).

Ensuring that all of Scotland can share in that growth is vital. For example although sustainable tourism provides 8.0% of our total employment across the country, that rises to 14% in Argyll and Bute, and 13% in both Perth & Kinross and Highland. For Edinburgh, although the percentage share of the total population working directly in tourism is smaller, it has just under 16% of the total tourism workforce in Scotland. That's a lot of jobs and a lot of revenue for all the 32 Scottish councils.

Turning to the City of Edinburgh Council proposal, as it stands, Edinburgh is undoubtedly a huge draw for tourists in its own right – but it's also a gateway to the rest of Scotland. Edinburgh accounts for 63% of all overseas visits to Scotland: amongst overseas visitors, Edinburgh ranks second (behind London) for visits and spending in UK towns.

Scottish Ministers job is to ensure there's an open and wide-ranging discussion, based on all the available evidence, and that all voices and viewpoints get heard on what is a very significant proposal – not just for Edinburgh, but for all of Scotland's visitor economy.

Our position therefore remains consistent in that the Scottish Government has no plans to introduce a levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

However, Scottish Ministers have also been clear that we will not consider requests to explore a Tourist Tax unless the tourism and hospitality industry are involved from the outset and their long-term interests are fully recognised.

Fiona Hyslop

Subject: FW: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re City of Edinburgh Council Tourist Tax proposals

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work

Sent: 26 July 2018 17:24

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
<CabSecFEFW@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re City of Edinburgh Council Tourist Tax proposals

Mr Mackay is content subject to removal of the struckthrough para.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] | Private Secretary (Depute) | Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work

Mail: 4N.11 | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 July 2018 16:59

To: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re City of Edinburgh Council Tourist Tax proposals

FAO PS/Cab Sec Finance

SG has been approached by [REDACTED] from Media World for statement on CEC Tourist Tax proposal. He's writing an article for the on-line Trade mag Hotel Scotland and asks:

"Amidst what appears to be contradictory and confusing reporting on the issue, I'm going to attempt to break it down for our readers in terms of simply whether this is likely to materialise anytime soon or not.

Would you be available for me to give you a call about it early next week, or perhaps you could send me a short statement outlining the Scottish government's stance?"

Ms Hyslop was originally approached, but SPADs advise response should come from Cab Sec Finance.

Is Cab Sec Finance content to use standard lines in response:

Our position remains consistent in that the Scottish Government has no plans to introduce a levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

[REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

[REDACTED]



year of young people
bladhnaidh na h-òigridh
2018

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 July 2018 14:17
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Communications Economy; Communications ICC
Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

These are standard lines that Mr Mackay has used, so all OK.

[REDACTED]
Local Government Division

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 July 2018 14:14
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Communications Economy;
Communications ICC
Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

Hi [REDACTED]

The response seems fine for comms. Assume it has been past colleagues in finance?

Are you okay to send to Cab Sec to explain why we are responding and for clearance?

Thanks

Media Manager | Finance, Economy and Fair Work Communications
The Scottish Government | St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 July 2018 17:29
To: Communications Economy; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE - Media: editorial enquiry from Hotel World re CEC Tourist Tax

Finance Comms

SG has been approached by [REDACTED] from Media World for statement on CEC Tourist Tax proposal. He's writing an article for the on-line Trade mag Hotel Scotland and asks

"Amidst what appears to be contradictory and confusing reporting on the issue, I'm going to attempt to break it down for our readers in terms of simply whether this is likely to materialise anytime soon or not.

Would you be available for me to give you a call about it early next week, or perhaps you could send me a short statement outlining the Scottish government's stance?"

Ms Hyslop was originally approached, but SPADs advise response should come from Cab Sec Finance.

Will Cab Sec Finance be content to use

Our position remains consistent in that the Scottish Government has no plans to introduce a levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ






year of young people
Education and Skills
2018


Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ




year of young people
Education and Skills
2018

From:  **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Sent: 20 July 2018 15:19
To: 
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: FW: editorial enquiry


Can you take this on please?

Regards,


Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence)
Office of Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Scottish Government, Room 2N.15, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG I
www.gov.scot

From: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP [<mailto:Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>]
Sent: 20 July 2018 09:46
To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Subject: FW: editorial enquiry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2018 14:45
To: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP <Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: editorial enquiry

Hello Fiona

I'm writing a feature on the proposed Edinburgh tourist tax for the next issue of Hotel Scotland magazine - a trade publication for hoteliers.

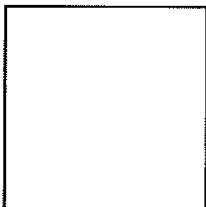
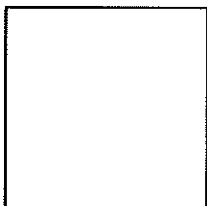
Amidst what appears to be contradictory and confusing reporting on the issue, I'm going to attempt to break it down for our readers in terms of simply whether this is likely to materialise anytime soon or not.

Would you be available for me to give you a call about it early next week, or perhaps you could send me a short statement outlining the Scottish government's stance?

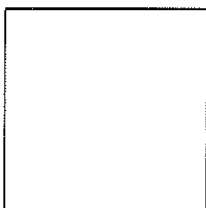
Many thanks

[REDACTED]

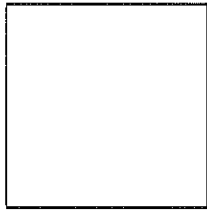
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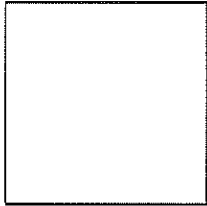
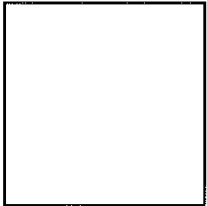
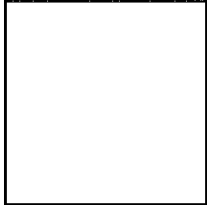


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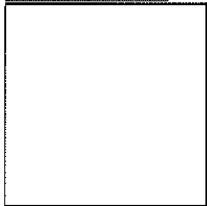
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[REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018
UPDATE

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 01 August 2018 12:32

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
<CabSecCTEA@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work <CabSecFEFW@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <CabSecRE@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Communications ICC <CommunicationsICC@gov.scot>; Communications Economy <CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018 UPDATE

[REDACTED]

Thanks to you and colleagues for providing further information, the Cabinet Secretary has noted this.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 July 2018 14:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018 UPDATE

[REDACTED]
With thanks to colleagues in Parliament and Legislation Unit, requested update on [REDACTED]

thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



year of young people
thru education and training to
2018

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Sent: 11 July 2018 15:58

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning;
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Subject: RE: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURIST TAX PROPOSALS - 10 JULY 2018 UPDATE

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for providing this update.

As discussed the Cabinet Secretary has noted this and has asked [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Copying in the Minister for Parly Business inbox

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Sent: 26 June 2018 15:54
To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Minister for Local Government and Housing; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]);
Communications CTEA; Communications Economy; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURISM LEVY PROPOSALS UPDATE

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your submission. Ms Hyslop is content to agree, however has expressed that [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I believe she raised this at the High Level Tourism Working Group.

I've attached the submission with some comments/questions cab sec had.

Also – Ms Hyslop has asked if we can please stop referring to this as the Bed Tax – can we stick to Tourist Tax or Tourism Tax?

Thanks

[REDACTED] | Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 June 2018 16:13
To: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; Minister for Local Government and Housing; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Communications CTEA; Communications Economy; [REDACTED]
Subject: ROUTINE - CITY OF EDINBURGH TOURISM LEVY PROPOSALS UPDATE

[REDACTED]

As discussed - Routine Submission on Bed Tax proposals for Tourism Levy

<< File: Tourism - Transient Visitor Levy in Edinburgh - Update and Next Steps - 22 June 2018.docx >>
Separate 25-page Annex B of earlier 22 March submission (if required)

<< File: ANNEX B - Tourism - Bed Tax Update - 22 March 2018.docx >>

Thanks



Tourism and Major Events Division
Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Area 2G - South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ



<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

"We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government.

"We continue to deliver a fair deal to councils across Scotland, with revenue and capital funding increasing in real terms over the next financial year."

"We have also committed to making local taxation more progressive and we remain open to further dialogue on options for reform.

"However, Scottish Ministers have been clear that we will not consider requests to explore a tourist tax unless the tourism and hospitality industry is involved from the outset and there is a clear understanding of the impacts of this proposal."

Background

Local authorities do not have the power to introduce a tourist tax. Establishing such a power would require an act of the Scottish Parliament.

[REDACTED]

Subject:

FW: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 August 2018 13:22

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Communications ICC

<CommunicationsICC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

Ok

Regards

[REDACTED]



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 August 2018 13:21

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Communications ICC

<CommunicationsICC@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

[REDACTED]

Actually, given the claims made of local authorities budget cuts, suggest I add a background line – happy with that?

[REDACTED]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government."

Background

Despite continued UK Government cuts to Scotland's resource budget, we continue to treat councils very fairly. The latest £10.7 billion local government settlement saw a real terms increase in both revenue and capital funding for the current year.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2018 13:17
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Communications ICC; News Desk
Subject: RE: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

Happy

Regards

[REDACTED]



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2018 13:11
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Communications ICC
<CommunicationsICC@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

[REDACTED]

Please see below – content our existing line on tourist tax re-issues?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We have been consistent in our stance that, given the potential impact on tourism, we have no plans to introduce visitor levy on the tourism sector, which is already subject to the second highest VAT rates in Europe by the UK Government."

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government

@ScotGov | www.gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2018 12:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

From: Scottish Labour Party Press Office <press@scottishlabour.org.uk>
Sent: 27 August 2018 10:25
To: Scottish Labour Party Press Office <press@scottishlabour.org.uk>
Subject: NEWS: TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

News from Scottish Labour

FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW

NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR

EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

TOURIST TAX COULD DELIVER A £2.5 MILLION FESTIVAL WINDFALL FOR EDINBURGH

A Tourist Tax could deliver a £2.5 million windfall for Edinburgh just during the Edinburgh Festival, analysis from Scottish Labour suggests.

Labour would devolve the power to local government to charge a Tourist Tax on each over-night stay per person, as a way of raising additional revenue and ensuring more economic power is held locally.

Analysis of the most up to date Edinburgh festival visitor numbers suggests a £2 per night charge could rake in £2.5million for the capital from the Festival alone.

There is growing support for Labour's Tourist Tax policy, with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) supporting the policy as well as Edinburgh City Council.

Labour said with tourism becoming a booming industry for Scotland, now was the time to introduce the measure to deliver more funding for cash strapped local services.

Labour Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Communities Monica Lennon said:

“Scotland’s public services are under increased pressure after the SNP government’s brutal £1.5 billion of austerity cuts to local councils.

“Our local communities are in serious need of additional funding, which means we need to urgently look at new ways for local authorities to raise revenues, including a tourist tax.

“Labour analysis suggests that Edinburgh could have raised £2.5million during the festival alone. That is money that could be ploughed back into vital local services.

“With Holyrood due to return next week, Labour will press the SNP government to finally give our local councils more economic power to raise additional revenues and protect services.”

ENDS

CONTACT: Kieron.Higgins@labour.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

A Tourist tax could raise around £2.5 million during the Edinburgh Festival alone.

This is based on a £2 charge per bed across all accommodation assuming a 90% occupancy rate. This is generally the occupancy rate in a busy month like august with an 80 per cent rate the rest of the year.

Occupancy rate	Accommodation available	Accommodation occupied	£2
	Beds	Beds	Be
All visitor accommodation			
90%	45,000	40,500	
80%	45,000	36,000	
Hotel visitor accommodation			
90%	22,500	20,250	
80%	22,500	18,000	
Non-hotel accommodation			
90%	22,500	20,250	
80%	22,500	18,000	

Data taken from <https://www.etag.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Facts-and-Figures-Guide-2016-Final.pdf>