

# POLICY MOTION

## Don't Tax Tourism

### Proposed by the Policy Development Committee

#### Conference notes:

- A. Welsh Liberal Democrats' unanimous support for the Visitor Economy at Spring Conference 2024.
- B. Continued falls in visitor numbers, revenue and overnight stays in Wales.
- C. Rising costs for tourism and hospitality businesses, including business rates, utilities, wages and National Insurance.
- D. The increase of the furnished holiday threshold to 182 days under the Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (Wales) Act 2024.
- E. Proposals for a Tourism Levy and Registration Bill, introducing the first tourism tax in the UK.
- F. The lack of reliable data on the number of holiday lets, bed spaces and occupancy rates in Wales.

#### Conference believes:

- I. Tourism and hospitality are essential to Wales's economy and local employment.
- II. The 182-day threshold is unrealistic and risks business closures and job losses.
- III. A tourism levy would harm competitiveness and may cost more to administer than it raises.
- IV. Good legislation must be evidence-based and proportionate.
- V. A national registration scheme can raise standards and improve safety.
- VI. Licensing would add unnecessary cost and bureaucracy.

#### Conference calls for:

1. Reducing the furnished holiday threshold from 182 days to 105 days, in line with HMRC guidance.
2. Suspending any Tourism Levy until registration is complete, the sector's true scale is known, and an independent economic impact assessment is

published.

3. Reversing proposals for a mandatory licensing regime for tourism accommodation.
4. A fair, data-driven approach that supports businesses and protects jobs across Wales.