

Meeting (7) of Tourism Group – 13:30, Thursday, 7 May 2020

Participants:

Deputy Minister, CST	WG	Stephen Jones	WLGA
Jason Thomas - Director	WG	Paula Ellis	SW Forum Chair
Rob Holt	WG	Phillipa George	SE Forum Chair
Jo Corke	WG	Sean Taylor	UK TIC Rep
Lucy von Weber	WG	Anthony Rosser	UK Hospitality C
Rhidian Morgan	WG	Dave Chapman	UK Hospitality C
Ian Edwards	VB Board rep	Michael Bewick	North Forum Chair
Andrew Campbell	WTA	Steve Hughson	MW Forum Chair
Adrian Greason-Walker	WTA		

Apologies: Mari Stevens

Version: FINAL

Main points of meeting

1. Update – Jason Thomas

1.1 JT wanted the meeting to focus on safer working guidelines and consider what the implications were for Wales of what the FM might announce on Friday and the UK Government on Sunday. JT asked colleagues to consider whether they would prefer sector-specific guidance to be sector led or Government led?

1.2 RH and the DM fed back following their meeting on 6 May with the UK and DAs Ministers:

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Views from Sector Representatives

2.1 UK Hospitality Cymru – Dave Chapman – main points:

-In answer to JT's question, UKH would prefer industry-led sector specific guidance but with WG giving the direction on public health aspects, and ensure alignment with the rest of the UK to ensure no gaps, or confusion which would undermine confidence.

-Like WG UKH had seen the high level draft guidance, which needed further work to make smarter with an appropriate way forward.

-JT liked the approach of UKHC feeding the Tourism Group's views into UKH to provide the feedback; the DM was content with this as it chimed with the WG approach to trust the industry with the detail. All agreed that UKH should continue to lead at a UK level with input from the group as required.

2.2 Wales Tourism Alliance – Adrian Greason-Walker- main points:

-AGW spoke to the WTA discussion paper circulated on defining a new Wales Standard for Cleanliness – to re-open the Tourism Industry in Wales, build visitor confidence and the provision of informed information to enable consumer choices. JT said this was an invaluable piece of work considering the issues around kite marking (such as legal precedents, enforcement and putting the burden on the industry).

-There were already regulations and guidance in place on standards and so there needed to be a balance between cost and benefit. WTA asked how any new scheme would it fit into existing systems? It needed to be UK level and address specific issues highlighted in the paper quick research would be needed.

- AC said that British Holiday Parks Association was also working on this.

- On research, JC said that she was working with VE and VS for a joint survey, hoped to issue it mid May to explore what the worries were - would prefer joint approach, but if needed, Wales would issue its own.

2.3 WLGA – Steve Jones – main points:

-Agreed with sector-led, UK-wide approach. The environmental health profession would need to support food and health protection.

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-Would endorse WG working to UK principles, but to a Wales timescale, with LAs helping to support the sector. Strong leadership needed from WG.

-very difficult for 22 LAs to regulate/enforce – but can give “seal of approval” .

-RH and PE said there were concerns around enforcement and much work to be done.

AGW said that enforcement was costly- it was better to have a balance between self-assessment and policy, but ultimate sanction would be prosecution but was rarely used.

-linking into “scores on the doors” was mentioned but needed to remember the lessons learnt on this – there were clearly several options and we needed to engage widely on them.

-IE said work was clearly in hand in WG and within the industry, but it needed to start with Government – clear messages; kite mark might help but we all had clear roles, but needed to work together.

2.4 JT said that across the CST sector he had the sense that all were willing to carry out the protocols once given the go-ahead; but JT wanted to be clear whether the sector wanted a push for restrictions to be eased in certain areas – of course, ultimately the public health advice would lead all decisions – but asked the group for any views. IE said that the traffic light system VW had adopted was sensible demonstrating how some things could feasibly open and when. JT asked to be informed when the traffic light system needed any amendment for any activity or specific areas. IE added that golf was something that could feasibly be brought back; Michael Bewick thought similarly of glamping; but only hand in hand with tapered support from the Government through the winter.

2.5 AC suggested we might want to look at technological advances in terms of alarms /sensors that alert you when you are less than 2m away from someone; ultra violet lamps – there could be other things happening in this area which could help, and shorten timescales.

2.6 SH made a plea for the events sector/larger attractions not to be forgotten. There was a discussion about what constituted a mass gathering. It was a real possibility that mass gatherings would only return with a vaccine. SH also said that consistency in guidance and rules needed to be cross-border and clear.

2.7 JT reiterated that he was well aware of the pressures around furlough and representations for it to continue were being made directly to UK Treasury.

2.8 The DM and JT thanked all for the meeting; the DM would be meeting the FM again shortly to discuss tourism. JT and senior team would be avidly listening to PM announcement on Sunday evening and would want all to assist with WG response.

2. AOB/Next meeting.

3.1 Friday, 15 May at 10:30am.

Alyson Burke
7 May 2020