

Our ref: ATISN 15787 Date: 14 April 2022

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 15787

Thank you for your request which was received by the Welsh Government on 18 January 2022.

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in <u>Requesting</u> <u>information from the Welsh Government</u> which is available by post on request or via the internet.

Discussions relating to the potential of a tourism tax in Wales originate back to the Holtham Commission in 2009 which explored the case for devolution of selected tax-varying powers to Wales, alongside other financial matters. There has been an ongoing process since 2009 exploring the case for introducing new taxes in Wales and exploration of the policy, administrative and mechanism to bring about change. Taxation powers devolved under the 2014 Wales Act prompted suggestions from individuals and organisations about new taxes that Wales could take forward in the context of these new powers. The Bevan Foundation's 2016 report - Tax for Good – highlighted eight possible new Welsh taxes which served as a starting point for the analysis of potential new taxes.

The former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government led a debate in July 2017 in the Senedd and there was a call for ideas for proposals for new taxes which received a strong public response. A tourism tax was shortlisted as one of the taxes to explore taking forward following this debate. The current Welsh Government has a programme for government commitment to now introduce legislation enabling local authorities to raise a levy on tourism.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House



Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Anna Adams