

Tourism leaders are staging consultation events to gauge the views of the tourism sector about a proposal to introduce compulsory registration for all rented holiday accommodation providers in Cornwall.

The drive to introduce compulsory accommodation registration is being led by the tourism industry which recognises its responsibilities for the safety of all and to maximise compliance with safety regulations, but also the impact of non-compliant operators can have on the communities in which they operate and the environment.

The emergence of online marketing platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO has created an explosion in additional holiday accommodation. This has led to over-tourism during peak periods and has added to the growing housing crisis with the loss of residential housing stock.

Compulsory registration could help ease the pressure on the residential letting market, with some operators, realising the regulations they have to comply with, potentially deciding to revert to residential letting.

South East Cornwall Tourism Association, Penzance & District Tourism Association, Bude Area Tourist Board, Visit Tamar Valley, Visit Falmouth, Land's End Accommodation and Visit Cornwall have joined forces to bring the proposal forward for Cornwall to act a pilot area for the scheme.

CEO of Visit Cornwall, Malcolm Bell, is confident that it would be a positive move.

"This is an opportunity to provide a level playing field at last, with all providers bearing the same level of costs. Visitors to Cornwall will be reassured that wherever they stay the accommodation will comply with all necessary legislation to ensure they enjoy a safe, enjoyable holiday.

"It will be a driver to assist in the reduction of periods of over-tourism in certain areas of Cornwall caused by the increased ad-hoc accommodation that has sprung up in peak season and the associated issues that this creates. A compulsory registration system would enable a simple way to communicate legislative changes to operators to ensure everyone is up to speed and compliant.

"The generation of key data is a massive advantage to discover the scale of the situation but also a major resource to help with future planning, transport, and healthcare needs. It would also help to spread the visitor load more evenly within the county and, more importantly, throughout the year."

All accommodation providers are encouraged to attend one of the consultation events to learn more about the proposal and put forward their views. The meetings are being held on Thursday 19 May at Lanhydrock Hotel, Bodmin at 10 am until 12 noon and from 2pm to 4pm at Heartlands, Pool.

To book and attend our Lanhydrock visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/337955442827>

To book Heartlands visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/337957829967>

To register for our morning zoom visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/338100807617>

To register for our afternoon zoom visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/338148500267>

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