

Oifig an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais,
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

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20th October, 2023.

Mr. Tim Fenn,
Chief Executive,
Irish Hotels Federation,
13 Northbrook Road,
Dublin 6.

Re: Visitor Accommodation Charge.

Dear Mr. Fenn,

I write to you on the above matter. I am keenly aware that this is a matter of interest and importance to your members. This issue has also been considered in depth by the members of Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

You will appreciate that the driving force for SPC members is the funding of improving public spaces and facilities which benefit, not only residents, but those who come to Dublin to visit, work and study. A Visitor Accommodation Charge is well established across the world, including many European Cities. Closer to home, a lot of work has been carried out by the Scottish and Welsh governments in regard to the introduction of a Visitor Accommodation Charge.

I am most mindful of the need to maintain and grow the attractiveness of Dublin and Ireland to both domestic and international visitors. We are in competition with other destinations, in terms of the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Dublin and Irish offer, including price. This is not a pursuit of a charge, without a beneficial purpose, rather it is creating a mechanism through which Dublin can continue to stand tall in attracting visitors which support so much of our economy.

It may seem that we in Dublin City Council's Finance SPC and those in the Hotel and broader accommodation sector will have opposing perspectives on this. I believe that with open collaboration, this issue can be successfully developed. I ask that you and some of your colleagues would consider meeting with a delegation of Finance SPC members in the coming weeks to discuss this further.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Séamas McGrattan

**Cllr Séamas McGrattan,
Chairperson Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council**