

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.

Minister Michael McGrath TD
Minister for Finance
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Cc

Minister Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan
Delivery and Reform

Minister Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Minister Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and
Media

Re: Visitor Accommodation Tax

Dear Minister McGrath,

I hope you are keeping well. I am contacting you again regarding the matter of a Visitor Accommodation Charge or Hotel Bed Tax, a matter of considered debate by the members of Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

I wrote to your office on 2nd December 2022 extending an invite to meet with the SPC members to discuss this important issue. Unfortunately you were unable to attend. This issue is of priority to the members. You will be aware that a recent review of LPT baseline funding concluded that Dublin required no additional funding. This review did not consider, as a relevant factor, the importance of the numbers of tourists to this local authority nor the role of a Capital City, which assumes a national perspective. Dublin City is the capital of our State, we all benefit from its strengths and are impacted by its weaknesses.

Around the globe, a Visitor Accommodation Charge has become the norm and its introduction and operation has matured and normalised. Closer to us, both the Scottish and Welsh governments are at an advanced stage of introducing a charge, that would be determined by local authorities, and used to enhance their public spaces. In this way, residents, domestic visitors and international visitors to Dublin would benefit, whether in Dublin to live, work, study or holiday.

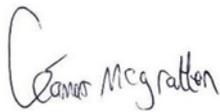
The introduction of the charge requires primary enabling legislation and I ask that you and your Government colleagues consider this. An option could be for Government to return the accommodation provision section to the lower VAT rate (9%), while applying a charge of the recently introduced higher vat rate (13.5%) with the differential (4.5%) being applied as a Visitor Accommodation Charge.

Another option could be a flat charge, based on accommodation standard (€5 per night for 5 star, €4 per night for 4 star), and with a percentage of the charge applied to the user or other combinations. In any event, the critical issue is that sight is not lost of the potential benefits that can come to Dublin and other areas, through the use of the funds that would become available.

I ask again that you consider the introduction of enabling primary legislation on this issue and am more than willing to meet you or your team to discuss further.

Please advise when this might be possible. We are happy to suit your calendar availability.

Yours sincerely,



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