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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-599  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/05282/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

10 October 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September regarding Petition P-04-599, received from Chris Harris which seeks a thorough review of the Non Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010 and to review the Welsh Government's overall tourism marketing strategy for Wales.

I am aware of the issues that the Non Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010 Order has had on genuine businesses. As a result, I commissioned the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to carry out an independent review to look at the effects of the Order. The IRRV took into consideration the views of a wide range of the business community and owners of self-catering properties, as well as trade and other relevant organisations.

Following the publication of the report by the IRRV, a six-week consultation was launched and advertised via the Welsh Government's online consultation portal. The consultation sought the views of individuals, owners of self-catering properties and representatives of the self-catering trade. The consultation document and a summary of the responses received can be found here:

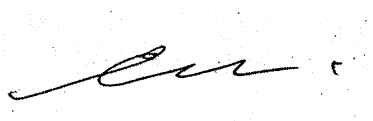
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/non-domestic-rating-consul/?status=open&lang=en>

Following this initial review, work in respect of self catering properties in Wales is currently being undertaken which will be used to inform what action should be taken in relation to any potential changes in the legislation for this area, including whether any guidance should be issued to the Valuation Office Agency and Local Authorities.

The Welsh Government's marketing strategy, which currently covers all tourism in Wales, was produced following extensive consultation with the tourism industry and with other stakeholders. It recognises the importance of Wales's varied tourism offering and does not marginalise any particular sector. The strategy and marketing campaigns are monitored throughout the year with guidance received from the Tourism Advisory Board.

We meet regularly with representatives of the self-catering sector and discussions are currently ongoing with self-catering agencies regarding further promotion of the sector to the domestic UK family market as part of our January 2015 marketing campaign.

I am confident that the reviews which have been undertaken and the procedures that are currently in place are sufficient and no further action is required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. I.', is located below the text. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.