



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mayor of London  
City Hall  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

9 March 2026

*Dear Mayor Khan,*

We are writing, as London Conservative Members of Parliament, following growing calls for an overnight visitor levy in England, described by many in the sector as a “holiday tax”, and the likelihood that London could be among the first places to introduce it should further powers be devolved.

London’s visitor economy is a major national asset. It sustains jobs and livelihoods across hotels and short-stay accommodation, pubs, restaurants, theatres, events, cultural venues, retail and transport. It is also integral to the wider UK tourism offer, for many visitors, London is the gateway to the rest of the country. Any policy that makes overnight stays more expensive therefore risks knock-on effects well beyond central London.

We have been contacted by UKHospitality as part of its Stop the Holiday Tax campaign. The concerns they set out are clear. The sector is only just emerging from an extended period of intense pressure, first the pandemic, then energy and input price shocks, rising wage costs, and inflation, while still carrying the burden of high fixed costs. They are warning that adding a new levy now would introduce fresh cost and complexity at precisely the wrong moment.

We believe that this is the wrong direction of travel. The priority should be to support enterprise, protect jobs, and back growth, particularly in hospitality, which employs millions and provides a first rung into work for many young people and part-time workers. A visitor levy would work against those goals by weakening demand and reducing discretionary spend in local economies.

UKHospitality have set out a number of key concerns which are relevant to London in particular. They argue this will create higher costs, particularly for families. Families tend to travel in school holidays and stay longer, so a nightly levy would fall most heavily on them, making domestic breaks in the capital less affordable. The levy will also mean reduced spend in local communities. When accommodation costs rise, visitors typically spend less in local shops, pubs, attractions and cultural venues, reducing the wider benefits that tourism brings to neighbourhood high streets. The levy is a risk to jobs. Hospitality is employment-intensive and if visitor numbers soften, employers cut hours and recruitment first, often affecting younger and lower-income workers. London competes with other major international cities for visitors, events and conferences. A levy risks making London less attractive at a time when the UK should be strengthening its global appeal.



These concerns are compounded by the wider cost environment facing hospitality. The sector is already dealing with increasing business rates, and hotels in particular are exposed to sharp rises. Many hotels have warned they are being hit by higher rates bills while simultaneously facing rising costs, and they have also been left out of parts of the Government's partial u turn on business rates support. Adding a new visitor levy on top would represent a double hit to accommodation providers and their supply chains.

For London, the practical effect of a visitor levy would not be confined to "tourists" in the abstract. It would be felt by London's hospitality businesses, their staff, and by local communities that rely on visitor footfall and spend. That is why we urge you to take a clear, pro-growth stance and to rule out introducing an overnight visitor levy in the capital.

Specifically, we ask that you:

- Commit publicly that you will not pursue an overnight visitor levy in London, should the power to do so become available.
- Work with London's hospitality and tourism sector on growth measures that strengthen the visitor offer, safer town centres, reliable transport, and support for events and cultural venues, without pricing visitors out.
- Champion meaningful reform of the cost base for hospitality, including business rates pressures that fall disproportionately on hotels and other accommodation providers.

Yours sincerely,

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster

Chris Philp MP  
Member of Parliament for Croydon South

Peter Fortune MP  
Member of Parliament for Bromley and Biggin Hill

David Simmonds MP  
Member of Parliament Ruislip,  
Northwood and Pinner

Gareth Bacon MP  
Member of Parliament for Orpington

Louie French MP  
Member of Parliament for Old Bexley, Sidcup and Welling