

TIER UPDATE 25 January 2021

This evening [Health Secretary Matt Hancock led a Downing Street briefing](#). He was joined by Dr Susan Hopkins, chief medical adviser to NHS Test and Trace, and Dr Jenny Harries, deputy chief medical officer for England. The session focused on the latest data - there are early signs that the current measures are working - and on vaccination.

Matt Hancock confirmed that they were looking at the tier system, and any changes would be subject to the data of how the last period of tier restrictions worked. It was noted that it is currently too soon to say when a full lockdown would end, he would not be drawn on a timeline for relaxation. When asked about the rumoured hotel quarantine policy, he said it was important to be cautious at the Border and travel corridors have been amended accordingly. He reminded people that under this lockdown it is illegal to travel abroad if you do not have a reasonable excuse. He said that it was reasonable to make a precaution stance to protect the country whilst working on the vaccine roll out.

Ministers will be discussing Hotel Quarantine at the COVID group tomorrow.

VisitEngland's COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Tracker

Wave 23 of the [COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Tracker is available on VisitEngland's website](#). The field work for this wave was conducted between 11-15 January. Results show that the national mood is at its joint lowest level, that confidence in taking trips has declined, appetite for risk and comfort levels in participating in various activities have dipped. There's been a 4 percentage point fall in spring trip intent and just 21% expect normality returning to their lives by June (down 12 points versus last wave). Summer intent remains stable.

Other results include:

- Fewer consider the 'worst is still to come' compared to Wave 22, but at 56% of adults, the proportion still feeling this way remains comparatively high.
- A third of adults anticipate taking more or the same number of overnight domestic trips between now and end June compared to normal. A quarter of adults feel similarly regarding overseas trips.
- Just 4% anticipate taking an overnight trip this winter, rising to 17% in spring (April-June). This compares to 11% and 21% respectively last wave.
- Summer trip intent is more stable with 26% of adults saying they anticipate taking one between July-Sept; up 1 percentage point versus Wave 22.
- Relatively few Spring Intenders have reached either the planning (28%) or booking (21%) stages of their trips.
- The leading destination type for spring trips is 'countryside or village' (34%) followed by 'traditional coastal/seaside town' (30%).
- 'Hotel/motel/inn' is the accommodation type with the highest share of spring trips, on 37%. Narrowly behind is 'commercial rentals' (e.g. holiday cottages) with 34%.

Changes to the Kickstart scheme in England, Scotland and Wales

[Today the government announced changes to the kickstart scheme](#), which provides funding to employers to create job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on universal credit. The Government has removed the minimum requirement of creating 30 vacancies to apply direct. Employers have a choice to apply direct or through one of the Kickstart gateways. There are now more than 600

approved gateways. Please note that applications for new kickstart gateways will close on Thursday 28 January but businesses that wish to sign up with the support of an existing gateway will still be able to do so.

Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

- 100% of the [National Minimum Wage](#) (or the [National Living Wage](#) depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- associated [employer National Insurance contributions](#)
- employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

Employers can spread the start date of the job placements up until the end of December 2021. Guidance is available to [help employers apply for a kickstart scheme grant](#) (kickstart gateway).

Read the [press release](#) or read more on the [kickstart scheme](#).

Scotland announces additional funding for the wedding sector

The Scottish Government announced a further £10m has been added to a [fund supporting the wedding sector](#). The now £25m fund opens on Thursday 28 January and will provide one-off grants of up to £25,000 for eligible businesses in the sector impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including wedding venues, photographers, caterers and suppliers.

Other government updates

- The Welsh Government is today announcing a £17.7m [Spectator Sports Survival Fund](#)
- Advice has been published detailing how people in England can [get a test if they do not have any symptoms](#).
- Guidance for the [test to release for international travel scheme](#) has been updated to include advice and a link to countries which currently have a travel ban. All arrivals who are self-isolating in England after travel from any country with a travel ban to the UK must self-isolate for 10 days and cannot opt in to Test to Release.
- Information on [how to self-isolate, when arriving in England](#), has been updated to include a link to countries with travel bans and give guidance for pre-departure testing.

COVID-19 Situation update 25 January 2021

- To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK visit the [UK COVID-19 dashboard](#).
- To see the number of cases globally see the [World Health Organisation dashboard](#).

TOURISM ALLIANCE UPDATE 25/01

- **Press Release Supporting Tourism Businesses**
Working with a number of members we have sent out the attached press release today which highlights the fact that important sectors of the UK tourism industry such as tour and coach operator, language schools and Event organisers have again been deemed to be ineligible for the latest grants aimed at supporting tourism and leisure businesses during for the lockdown period even though they are effectively closed as a result of travel restrictions.

- **ONS Personal and Economic Wellbeing Data**

ONS has just published a lot of data that has tracked people's personal and economic wellbeing through the Coronavirus outbreak.

The data includes

- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by sex, across time**
Sex split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time for Great Britain, according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by tenure, across time**
Tenure split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by parental status, across time**
Parental split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by age group, across time**
Age group split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by country, across time**
Country split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by those with and without a disability, across time**
Those with and without a disability split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by employment status, across time**
Employee and self-employed split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- **Personal and economic well-being estimates by income group, across time**
Income group split estimates on personal and economic well-being across time according to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

While this data doesn't hold too many surprises, it could be useful as businesses look to develop marketing strategies when businesses start reopening, I've attached the highlighted age group analysis as an example - it contains information such as furloughed workers by age group, impacts on personal finances, expectations of when life will return to normal, anxiety levels and ability to save in the current circumstances.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/personalandeconomicwellbeingdemographicandpersonalcharacteristicestimates>

- **Self Catering Survey**

PASC UK are working with the ASSC (Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers) to research and prepare a National Self-Catering survey. The aim is to produce the most substantive assessment of the size and value of this sector ever undertaken. It will cover the whole UK and provide information on a country, region or county level. If you have members that are in this sector, could you please forward the following survey link to them to complete. I will distribute to final report to everyone when it is available.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pascasscopers>.

BREXIT UPDATE 25/01

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) releases videos for businesses on post-transition rules

BEIS launched a series of on demand videos on topics ranging from trade to data on post-transition rules. Read [the press release](#) or register to watch the videos [here](#).

Cabinet Office checklist of 'top things to do now'

Following the change to rules for doing business with Europe, the Cabinet Office released a checklist of 'top things to do now' for businesses. The checklist is attached or businesses can use the Brexit checker tool at www.gov.uk/transition for a personalised list of actions.