

Tourism Alliance 22nd October

- **Social Impact of Coronavirus**

ONS has published the latest wave of its research on the social impacts of coronavirus. The key findings are:

- 82% adults reported they wore a face covering when outside their home in the past seven days compared to 86% previously
- 84% felt that social distancing from others not in their household was important but only 39% reported they always or often maintained social distancing when outside their home
- 55% reported they avoided physical contact with others outside their home

So while people are expressing high levels of concern and the importance of mask wearing and social distancing, there does seem to be an element of people responding to the survey with answers that they feel they are expected to give rather than stating their actual behaviours.

In terms of people returning to work, there continues to be a slow increase in the number of people who are returning to the workplace.

- 70% reported travelling to work at some point in the past seven days (67% in the previous period)
- 30% reported working from home at some point in the past seven days (29% in the previous period)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/22october2021>

- **Guidance On Travel Into England Updated**

The DfT guidance for people entering the UK has been updated to take into account that people who are fully vaccinated can, from today, book a lateral flow test for use when travelling into the country from 24 October.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

- **R Number And Growth Rate**

This week's R Number and Growth Rate are, respectively, 1.0 to 1.2 and +1% to +3%. These are the highest rates since the end of July and reflect the recent increase in case numbers to over 50,000/day

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

Tourism Alliance 27th October

I've attached a copy of the tourism-related highlights of CSR and Budget. There was a slight surprise in that the Government's finances are not as bad as predicted which allowed the Chancellor to announce both significant increases to departmental budgets and to spend more through the budget. While there was good news in the budget on Business Rates and Alcohol Duty, there was not a huge amount else that was directly beneficial for most tourism businesses.

Importantly we need to make sure that those tourism businesses that missed out on the Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief during the pandemic due to technicalities – such as coach and tour operators, event's organisers and language schools - do missing out on Business Rates support yet again.

Tourism Alliance 28th October

- **Recovery Loan Scheme Updated**

In light of the announcement in the budget yesterday, the details of the recovery Loan Scheme have been updated. From 1 January 2022, the following changes will come into force:

- The scheme will only be open to small and medium sized enterprises
- The maximum amount of finance available will be £2 million per business
- The guarantee coverage that the government will provide to lenders will be reduced to 70%

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recovery-loan-scheme>

- **Employment in DCMS Sectors**

DCMS has published some interesting data on employment in the various sectors under its responsibility. Unfortunately, it doesn't include employment in the Tourism sector (those figures will come next month)

	2019	2021
Creative Industries	2.1m	2.3m
Cultural Sector	0.7m	0.7m
Digital Sector	1.6m	1.8m
Sport	0.6m	0.5m
Telecoms	0.2m	0.2m

So, on these figures, it would seem that the only DCMS sector to lose employees as a result of the pandemic has been sports

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dcms-sector-economic-estimates-2021-employment-2019-to-june-2021>

DCMS's CSR Priorities

As part of the CSR, the Government set's out its priorities for each Government Department and how the department's performance against that priority will be measured. DCMS's tourism-related priority is to:

"Grow and evolve our sectors domestically and globally, in particular those sectors most affected by COVID-19, including culture, sport, civil society, and the creative industries"

And performance against this will be measured by:

- Gross Value Added of DCMS sectors, excluding digital (£)
- Domestic tourism visitor numbers
- DCMS sector skills gaps (per cent)
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Tourism update 22 – 28th October

It's slightly odd that there is no mention of international visitor numbers alongside the domestic tourism number, although the performance of international tourism can be seen to be included in GVA performance.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1029277/Supplementary_Document_on_Outcomes_Metrics.pdf