

Draft Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill

Submission of evidence

Overview of our stance:

- UKHospitality and its members are supportive of the Government's environmental goals and the sector remains committed in continuing to prioritise sustainable practices.
- UKHospitality and its members recognise the adverse impacts that single-use plastics have on the environment and many hospitality businesses are continuing to transition to more sustainable alternatives.
- The Government should consider the scale of the operations required to transition away from single-use plastics and should therefore be prepared to provide support to businesses, where necessary. Whilst businesses are committed to using less plastic, this will require operators to have conversations with suppliers, and in some cases move to new suppliers in order to comply with the legislation and find more sustainable alternatives.

Sector progress to becoming more sustainable:

Given the extensive reach of the hospitality sector across the country, the industry has an important role to play in promoting sustainability, and many hospitality businesses are progressing with their efforts to reduce emissions and meet the Government's environmental goals.

To support businesses, UKHospitality has developed a Sustainability Strategy that highlights the significant role the sector can play in meeting the Government's Climate Change ambitions. This ambition is set out in the UKH Sustainability Commitment, outlining the pledges that will support the sector to becoming a leading sustainable industry with the additional target of becoming carbon net-zero by 2040. Within the Commitment, 10 specific pledges have been set out. This includes the roll out of EV charging points, facilitating engagement across supply chains to reduce environmental impacts, and also collaborating with the leading champions in our sector such as WRAP, to provide businesses with the tools to reduce food waste and plastic consumption for example.

One of the pledges within the Commitment includes our flagship Guide. With the understanding that SMEs in our sector have not been able to dedicate as much resource to the environmental agenda as they may have liked over the last two years, our Guide is aimed at supporting SMEs by setting out simple and cost-effective ways businesses can become more sustainable.

Both of these documents have been developed with support across the industry, and the Guide includes case studies of UKHospitality members across the UK who are leading the way on sustainability initiatives for the rest of the sector.

The final drafts of the Commitment and Guide have both been attached and are set to be launched at the UKH Sustainability Seminar on 13th September 2022.