

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
CELG(4)-20-14 Paper 4

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee,
National Assembly for Wales

18 June 2014

Dear Ms Chapman,

During our oral evidence to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee on 11 June, we undertook to provide detail on Wales' holiday and touring parks contribution to local authorities through Business Rates. I was mistaken in my hope that this had been detailed in the economic study we undertook with VisitWales in 2011, therefore we have undertaken desk research to provide an estimate for the Committee's consideration.

In this we reviewed a sample of parks' Rating Valuations and annual Business Rates paid on the Valuation Office Agency website, comparing this with BH&HPA's data for pitch numbers on the selected parks. From this it was possible to calculate an average Business Rates payment per pitch for 2013/14 (which differs according to the type of pitch - whether static caravan or for touring caravans/tents).

With an average per-pitch figure, we then multiplied this up to give an estimate for the contribution across all parks in Wales. The challenge here is that the estimate of the total size of the industry in Wales differs considerably between that reported in the Bill's Explanatory Memorandum and the figures reported by the Welsh Government's 'Summary of Wales Bedstock Data : Situation as at March 2013'¹.

The Welsh Government Statistical Article indicates that the 2013/14 Business Rate contribution to the public purse from Wales' holiday and touring parks would be in the order of **£24 million**.

The Bill's Explanatory Memorandum's estimate of the scale of the industry indicates a contribution in the order of **£17 million**.

I hope that the above is helpful and please let me know if further detail would be of assistance.

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¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/caecd/research/131011-accommodation-bedstock-march-2013-en.pdf>