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HaysMac's Hospitality News

Welcome to the latest edition of HaysMac's Hospitality News, bringing you the latest legislation updates from across the sector, as well as highlighting some of our most exciting deals from over the past few months!



A new cost on the horizon: The visitor levy you can't ignore

The Government's consultation on an overnight visitor levy in England is another change Hospitality leaders need to get ahead of. With Scotland and Wales already moving forward, England's potential levy raises big questions around pricing, competitiveness, admin demands and how funds will actually be used.

A visitor levy is essentially a 'tourist tax'. Accommodation providers collect it, and guests pay more – a common model abroad and likely soon across the UK. Local councils would set and adjust rates over time, creating uncertainty for operators managing pricing, systems and demand. Even small levies can impact visitor numbers, and for businesses where accommodation drives wider spend, the knock-on effects could be significant.

If you'd like to understand what this could mean for your business, our Hospitality Tax team are here to help. Read more [here](#) or contact [Mark Shewring](#), Tax Partner, for support.

On the books and on the menu: Accounting changes Hospitality CFOs need to know

Significant accounting changes are coming for Hospitality, with new FRS 102 rules (effective for period commencing 1 January 2026 onwards) expected to reshape balance sheets and impact KPIs across hotels, restaurants, pubs and leisure businesses who lease their sites. Most leases will now move onto the balance sheet, creating increased fixed asset carrying values, and increased liabilities. Common metrics such as EBITDA will be impacted.

Company size thresholds increased in April 2025, meaning many businesses may see shifts in reporting and audit requirements. The new limits can be applied in the prior year when considering the two year rule, but it is worth noting that groups must be small in their entirety to qualify for audit exemption.

Want guidance around the changes? Read more [here](#) or contact [Rupinder Bajwa](#), Senior Hospitality Manager for support.





Payroll Savings Schemes: When good intention becomes a National minimum wage risk

Employers are increasingly promoting payroll savings schemes as a wellbeing initiative, allowing staff to save small amounts directly from their wages. They allow employees to smooth out income, reduce dependence on debt, and encourage financial planning.

Payroll savings schemes are designed to support lower-paid staff – but there is a risk that even voluntary schemes can trigger National Minimum Wage breaches if deductions remain under employer control.

Without careful structuring through independent third-party arrangements and strong payroll safeguards, these initiatives can create unexpected legal, financial, and reputational risks, despite their wellbeing focus.

Want support on how to remain compliant and avoid reputational harm? Read more [here](#) or contact [Nick Bustin](#), Director and Head of Employment Tax, for tailored advice.

Deals Spotlight

Urban Pubs & Bars acquires Albion & East

The HaysMac team provided a comprehensive suite of advisory services to longstanding client, Urban Pubs & Bars, to support with their acquisition of Albion & East Limited.

This included Financial and Tax Due Diligence along with working capital and SPA support.

Having worked with Urban for years as their trusted Audit and Tax advisors, we know their business inside out. That deep understanding helped us tailor our approach to their ambitions and we're excited to continue supporting them as they grow.

You can find out more about the deal on our [website](#).

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