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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.



All foam, no pint? Hospitality left wanting more from the Autumn Budget

Many hospitality businesses were hoping for meaningful support in this year's Autumn Budget, but while there were some welcome measures, the sector is still waiting for the deeper reforms it has long been calling for. The continuation of business rates support and an increase in the relief threshold will provide short-term certainty for some operators, while additional funding through Small Producer Relief is positive news for drinks producers.

However, rising labour costs, ongoing concerns around the business rates system, and a lack of progress on issues such as VAT reform and tourism tax changes mean many of the sector's structural challenges remain unresolved. With operators continuing to face significant cost pressures, the Budget may offer some support, but falls short of delivering the comprehensive change many businesses were hoping for.

Want to understand what the Budget means for your hospitality business? Read our full insight here or contact Dale Hunnings, Manager, to discuss the impact on your business.

Planning your exit? Key changes to Business Asset Disposal Relief and the new Founders' Relief

The Autumn Budget introduced important changes to the Capital Gains Tax landscape for business owners considering a future sale, succession plan or exit. From April 2027, the lifetime limit for Business Asset Disposal Relief (BADR) will be reduced from £1 million to £500,000, potentially increasing the tax bill for some owners on disposal.

Alongside this, the Government has announced a new Founders' Relief, offering a 10% Capital Gains Tax rate on qualifying gains of up to £10 million for eligible founders of high-growth businesses. While the relief could create valuable opportunities for some entrepreneurs, the qualifying criteria are expected to be relatively restrictive.

Considering your future exit plans? Read our full insight here or contact James Gramston, Tax Director, or Anna Pettitt, Tax Manager, to discuss how these changes could affect your business.





UK hotels sector outlook: Optimism endures amid cost pressures and industry transformation

Despite a challenging operating environment, the UK hotel sector remains resilient and confident about the future. In a survey of 90+ hotel operators conducted at HaysMac, Keystone Law and Leumi UK's annual Hotelier's Lunch, 62% said they were optimistic about the market's prospects over the next 12 months, while 63% expect to maintain or increase room rates.

However, challenges remain. Rising operating costs were identified as the biggest concern by 88% of respondents, with recruitment difficulties, regulatory change and the potential expansion of visitor levies also high on the agenda. At the same time, 91% agreed that technology will play an increasingly important role in driving efficiency and profitability.

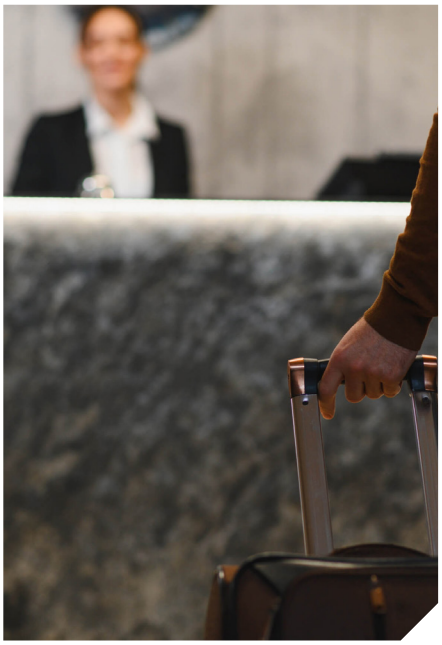
Want to see the full survey results? View them here.

Ready for check-out? Critical factors for a successful hotel exit

Whether you're thinking about a sale, bringing in investment or simply planning for the future, taking steps to prepare your hotel business well in advance can help maximise value and create a smoother transaction process. In this insight, we explore three areas that are increasingly important to investors and buyers: understanding what's really driving revenue growth, investing strategically in your assets, and ensuring your business structure is fit for purpose.

Today's buyers want more than strong financial performance. They are looking for businesses that can clearly demonstrate sustainable growth, a well-managed investment strategy and a structure that can adapt to future opportunities. Getting these fundamentals right early can make a meaningful difference when the time comes to exit.

Thinking about what the future looks like for your business? Read our full insight here or get in touch with Jack Beard, Director, to discuss how you can strengthen your business and prepare for a successful exit.



Pull up a chair - catching up across the sector

It was great to see so many of you at our recent Hotelier's and Restaurateurs' Lunches, and we're looking forward to catching up with those attending our Publican's Lunch next week. Missed out on the fun and want to see what we got up to at our Restaurateurs' event? Catch up **here**.

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