

Hotel Business



It seems there's never a dull moment in the hotel industry. Hot on the heels of the summer's disappointing temperatures, there is now more to worry about than just what the weatherman has to say. October unbelievably is just round the corner and with it we can expect some

changes - changes that will affect your businesses. Not only will the minimum wage increase, but hotels will also have to take a closer look at their staffing numbers to deal with improvements in holiday

entitlement. Not taking the time to plan for these changes could throw a spanner in the works so make sure you're prepared.

On the subject of being prepared, this month we spoke to Ruth Watson, TV's Hotel Inspector, about her hard hitting approach to running a hotel. Taking downtrodden hoteliers from rags to riches on Channel 5, her views on the industry are not to be missed.

Also pick up advice on upping your wine sales and find out the current feelings surrounding going green.

Have a good month,
Anna Blewett
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Planned Taxes to Hurt Hoteliers

Hoteliers are being encouraged to make their views heard against planned tax changes which, if unchallenged, will hit the industry in April 2008. The call, from The Capital Allowances Partnership, relates to proposals launched at the end of an extended consultation period following the shock announcement in March's budget to abolish hotel allowances. HM Revenue has finally published further tax proposals to change the way that hoteliers will obtain tax relief for 'plant and machinery'. Tax-speak for furnishings and fittings, the term covers anything that can be described as "fixtures integral to a building" and includes lifts, central heating equipment, bathroom fixtures, air conditioning units and much more. Government has also asked whether it should include electrical lighting, power, and hot and cold water systems. This comes as a further financial blow to the hotel industry and is one which the Treasury admits will raise an additional £2.47 billion of tax from UK business by 2010.



HMRC is proposing reducing the tax relief for plant from 25% pa to 20%. However, some assets will only qualify at 10%, meaning that in real terms tax relief could be spread over nearly 30 years. "Hoteliers will be surprised to hear that HMRC believes their plant will last this long," says Steven Bone of The Capital Allowance Partnership LLP. "HMRC is consulting on its proposals and hoteliers and their advisers should make their views known by the 19th October deadline. Nonetheless, with the abolition of hotel allowances, the key to going forward will be to maximise plant, as this will be the only way to obtain any tax relief."

The Government is welcoming comments on its proposals and interested parties can make their views felt before 19th October by calling 0207 270 5000 (Treasury switchboard) or emailing businesstaxreforms@hm-treasury.x.gsi.gov.uk

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