
 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1977 No. 1877

TOURISM

The Tourism (Sleeping Accommodation Price Display) Order 1977

Made - - - - 15th November 1977
Laid before Parliament 23rd November 1977
Coming into Operation 1st February 1978

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 15th day of November 1977

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred on Her by section 18 of the Development of Tourism Act 1969(a), is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Tourism (Sleeping Accommodation Price Display) Order 1977 and shall come into operation on 1st February 1978.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. In this Order, "hotel" means any establishment in Great Britain at which sleeping accommodation is provided by way of trade or business—

- (a) which for the purposes of letting has not fewer than four bedrooms or eight beds (including beds situate in dormitories), excluding any which are normally in the same occupation for more than 21 consecutive nights, and
- (b) at which such accommodation is offered, whether for one night or for a longer period, to any person who wishes to avail himself thereof and appears able and willing to pay therefor and is in a fit state to be received—

but excluding any establishment which is a bona fide members' club and provides such accommodation as a benefit of membership and any establishment where accommodation is normally provided for a price which includes the provision of other services and those other services are not merely ancillary to the accommodation.

3.—(1) At each hotel there shall be displayed in a prominent position in the reception area or, if none, at the entrance, where it can easily be read by a person seeking to engage sleeping accommodation at the hotel, a legible notice stating the current prices (which, wherever appropriate, shall include, and be stated to

 (a) 1969 c. 51.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

include, any service charge) payable per night by any such person for sleeping accommodation at the hotel consisting of:—

- (a) a bedroom for occupation by one adult person,
- (b) a bedroom for occupation by two adult persons, and
- (c) a bed, other than as in (a) or (b) above, for occupation by an adult person and stating also whether it is situate in a dormitory or room to be shared with other guests.

(2) Where Value Added Tax is payable, then either—

- (a) the price shall include and be stated to include the amount of tax, or
- (b) the price shall be stated to exclude the amount of tax and that amount shall be stated with equal prominence in money terms as the amount of tax payable in addition to the price.

(3) If the accommodation is only provided inclusive of meals, the price of the accommodation shall be stated to be inclusive thereof and the meals so provided shall be suitably identified.

(4) If the prices in respect of each of the above categories of sleeping accommodation are not standard throughout the hotel it shall be sufficient to state the lowest and highest current price for accommodation of each category (disregarding any bedroom or bed which is normally in the same occupation for more than 21 consecutive nights).

(5) Additional information may be included in the notice provided it does not detract from the prominence to be given to the above information.

4. If any person who provides sleeping accommodation in a hotel fails to display a notice which complies with Article 3 he shall, unless he proves that he had reasonable excuse for the failure, be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding a fine of £200.

5.—(1) A duly authorised officer of a local weights and measures authority may, at all reasonable hours and on production, if required, of his credentials, enter and inspect any establishment within the area of that authority at which sleeping accommodation is provided by way of trade or business for the purpose of determining whether the provisions of this Order are being complied with; and where a local weights and measures authority has made arrangements for the discharge of any of its functions as such by another local authority the power conferred by this Article shall also be exercisable by a duly authorised officer of that other local authority.

(2) Any person who wilfully obstructs any person in the exercise of a right of entry and inspection conferred by paragraph (1) of this Article shall be guilty of an offence and be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding a fine of £100.

6.—(1) Where an offence under this Order committed by a body corporate is committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any other person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall also be guilty of an offence.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, paragraph (1) of this Article shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

7. The Secretary of State for Trade as respects England, the Secretary of State for Scotland as respects Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales as respects Wales may make regulations to exclude from the definition of "hotel" in Article 2 of this Order any class of establishment and to make consequential amendments to this Order.

N. E. Leigh,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order provides for the display of the maximum and minimum current prices charged per night for accommodation at establishments in Great Britain which provide sleeping accommodation by way of trade or business and have not less than four bedrooms or eight beds. Establishments which are bona fide members' clubs and establishments where other services are provided which are not merely ancillary to the accommodation are excluded. Bedrooms and beds normally occupied by the same person for more than 21 nights are disregarded. Provision is made for the prices displayed to be inclusive of any service charge or meals, for VAT to be included or shown separately, for inspection of establishments, for offences and penalties, and for regulations to be made further excluding any class of establishment from the scope of the Order.

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