

Visitor Levy Consultation Summary

The consultation seeks views on the design of a new Mayoral power to create a 'Visitor Levy' on overnight stays.

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What is a Visitor Levy?

- A Visitor Levy is a fee charged to visitors when they stay overnight in a destination. The money is normally collected by accommodation providers and passed on to the collecting local authority.

Who has to pay the Levy?

- Tourists and visitors staying in hotels, hostels, or short-term rentals typically pay the levy. Local residents are usually exempt.

How is the Visitor Levy charged?

It is usually charged in one of two ways:

- A fixed fee per person, per night (for example, £2 per guest per night), or
- A percentage of the accommodation cost (for example, 5% of the room rate).

How is the Visitor Levy calculated?

- The cost depends on the location's rules and your length of stay.
For example, if the levy is **£3 per person per night** and your stay is **4 nights**, the total levy would be **£12**.

Where is the Visitor Levy used?

The funds are used to improve and maintain the destination, including:

- Upgrading infrastructure and transport
- Maintaining tourist attractions and public areas
- Supporting cultural festivals and events
- Protecting the environment
- Managing overcrowding from tourism

How is the Visitor Levy collected?

- The levy is usually collected by accommodation providers at the time of booking, check-in, or check-out, and then transferred to the local authority.

Will a Visitor Levy increase accommodation prices?

- The levy is a small additional cost. Accommodation prices themselves remain set by the provider, but the levy will appear as a separate, transparent charge.

Will the levy apply to all types of accommodation?

- Potentially yes — these schemes allow for accommodation types like hotels, campsites, hostels, B&Bs, and holiday lets. But it depends on the council - some may choose to apply the levy to certain types only.

Which parts of the UK currently have a Visitor Levy?

- **Scotland:** The *Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act* (2024) gives local councils the power to introduce a levy
- **Wales:** Legislation was passed in 2025 to allow a visitor levy.
- **England:** There is no universal visitor levy power for councils yet, but some cities (e.g., Manchester and Liverpool) use a workaround via Accommodation Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

How much is the Visitor Levy in places where it's introduced?

It varies by location:

- **Edinburgh, Scotland:** 5% surcharge on overnight stays.
- **Glasgow:** A 5% levy is planned for 2027.
- **Liverpool (England):** About **£2 per night** is added for overnight stays in “Accommodation BID” hotels.
- **Wales (proposed):** £1.30 per person, per night for many accommodation types and 75p for campsites/hostels.

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