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Lyons Enquiry into Local Government
Funding
Room 3.1
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Enq to : Ann Simon
Department : Chief Executive's
Our Ref :
Your Ref :
Direct Dial : 01202 495127

1 August 2006

Dear Sirs

Proposed Bed Tax

I am writing to express my concern and strong opposition to the proposed Bed Tax.

Tourism in the UK is a highly competitive and highly priced business with tourists to the UK already paying a much higher level of VAT than in other countries, more than three times than in France and twice the European average of 8.5%. The introduction of further taxation would have a significant effect, resulting in a decline of the number of visitors to the UK.

Britain's tourism industry is estimated at £75bn and encourages the protection and maintenance of natural, cultural and historic resources and supports services and facilities for local communities which would not be viable otherwise.

The government has targets to increase this revenue to £100bn by 2010 and Local Authorities and tourism businesses should be encouraged to invest in Britain's cultural and historic assets so that they are preserved, reviewed and improved to attract both inbound and domestic tourism.

Reports demonstrate that tourists contribute £12bn per annum directly to the Government for the provision and maintenance of the public resources they use and consideration should be given to ensure that a greater percentage of this £12bn is reinvested back into the provision and maintenance of the resources that tourists use rather than increasing the contribution made by tourists.

Yours sincerely

Ann Simon
Tourism Manager



Kelvin White
C.P.F.A.

Director of
Resources

Michael Turvey
B.A., M.B.A., D.M.S.,
F.M.S., F.C.M.I.

Chief Executive
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Nigel Davies
M.A., Dip.U.D., Dip.V.E.M.,
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Director of
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