

## Wales attracting GB visitors for longer stays

Figures published today on visitors to Wales from GB show that Wales performed better than the rest of GB in the 12 months ending May 2017.

Thursday 07 September 2017

During this period, there were 9.657 million overnight visits to Wales by GB residents, with 34.554 million nights spent in Wales. Figures may indicate that people coming to Wales from GB are now finding more and more reasons to stay for longer – as the number of nights has increased by nearly 5%.

In comparison, the number of visits to GB as a whole has decreased by 3.7% over the same period, and the number of nights has decreased by 3.2%.

Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure, said:

“These indications are very positive for 2017. In what is an extremely competitive market place, tourism in Wales is in a strong position and these figures continue to reflect the success we have experienced over the last two years. In addition to this, 87% of respondents in our tourism barometer survey undertaken in June said they were confident about how their business would perform over the summer.

We will continue with our campaign work to ensure that we make the most of the opportunities to attract those looking to holiday at home due to the weak pound.”

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## Thurley Review of Amgueddfa Cymru

Dr Thurley makes a number of useful observations and recommendations which both the Cabinet Secretary and Welsh Government, and Amgueddfa Cymru will now consider in detail.

Cabinet Secretary, Ken Skates, said:

“I’d like to thank Dr Thurley for his balanced, thoughtful and

impartial report. The review is a key step to help the Welsh Government identify the most appropriate ways in which we can help ensure Amgueddfa Cymru continues to thrive in the future, in what continue to be challenging financial times.

“As outlined in the report on Historic Wales, I remain absolutely committed to enabling our heritage institutions to maximise the economic benefits that they bring to the people of Wales .

“We will now work closely with Amgueddfa Cymru’s Board of Trustees and Senior Management Team to determine how best to take the review and recommendations forward.”

In his review, Dr Thurley recognises the quality of Amgueddfa Cymru’s national collections, the expertise and knowledge of staff, its support of social and community development and its contribution to a knowledge of Welsh history and culture, and describes its achievements in these areas as having been outstanding. His recommendations also look at relations between Amgueddfa Cymru and Welsh Government; opportunities for commercial development as well as policy and governance, and future vision.

Dr Thurley, said:

“I hope that my review and its recommendations will form a strong foundation for the museum, together with the Welsh Government, to meet the challenges and successfully move forward to the next stage in its history.”

David Anderson, Director General of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales said:

“We are pleased that the positive contribution made by Amgueddfa Cymru – through its staff, museums and collections – is acknowledged by Dr Thurley in his review.

“He describes Amgueddfa Cymru as one of the ‘great museums of the UK and a ‘successful and thriving organisation’, of which we are extremely proud.

“We recognise the need to make improvements in certain areas of our work including income generation and industrial relations, and Dr Thurley’s observations and recommendations provide a helpful framework to help us address these.”

Elisabeth Elias, President of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales said:

“I would like to thank the Cabinet Secretary for commissioning this Review, which has captured both the successes of this much-loved and iconic national institution as well as some of the challenges it faces.

“As a Board of Trustees we will be considering the recommendations in detail and supporting the Senior Management Team going forward in working with staff, the recognised Trade Unions and Government Officials in their implementation.”

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## **Brexit and Fair Movement of People**

The Welsh Government has today launched its latest Brexit paper, which proposes a fair approach to future migration to the UK.

The paper, launched at GE Aviation in Nantgarw, puts the economic well-being of Wales at the heart of its approach. It sets out a position which, by linking migration to the UK more closely to employment, would both enable the UK to convince EU negotiators to agree to continued full and unfettered access to the Single Market after Brexit and ensure that Welsh employers would continue to access the skills they need.

The managed approach to migration would enable people from EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland to continue to come to the UK to work if they have a prior job offer, or to seek employment if they have a real prospect of finding a job quickly.

This approach would allow Wales and the UK to continue to benefit from inward migration, while addressing the concerns that featured prominently in the debate leading up to the Brexit referendum last June.

Today's paper also sets out the need for vigorous enforcement of legislation to address peoples' concerns over the potential for the exploitation of migrant workers to undermine wages and working conditions for all workers.

While making a forceful case for fair movement, the paper also addresses what might happen if the UK government decides to impose quantitative limits on migration from the EU. In this case, which would not be the preferred option of the Welsh Government, we would be minded to press for a specific quota for Wales.

First Minister Carwyn Jones said:

“It is essential that, post-Brexit, the system for migration between the EU and UK is one which is right for Wales, and for all parts of the UK. Our top priority is assuring our future economic prosperity through full and unfettered access to the Single Market.

“Our proposals provide a realistic basis for the UK’s negotiations with the EU, in contrast with what has been seen as “magical thinking” from the UK government.

“We recognise many people have concerns about the extent and speed of migration and we want to see more control over this. That is why we are proposing a fair system which would ensure future migration to the UK is linked to employment, with those wishing to come to the UK required to have a job, or the ability to find one quickly.”

Finance and Local Government Secretary, Mark Drakeford, said:

“Our proposal, which links migration to work and tackles the ongoing exploitation of workers, is one which we believe would command wide support from people across Wales and the whole UK, and would provide a credible basis for the negotiations with the EU.

“While the Welsh Government is not responsible for immigration policy, this is a sensible and well-evidenced contribution to this important policy area and I strongly urge the UK government to give careful consideration to our proposals.

“Many people from overseas have moved to Wales and make a hugely positive contribution to Welsh society and our economy. This will not end once the UK has left the EU. We will continue to need to recruit doctors, nurses, engineers, workers for the tourism, food and agriculture sectors, academics, and others, after Brexit. We are starting to see a worrying number of EU citizens leaving the UK and the consequences of closing our borders altogether would do untold damage to Wales’ economy and public services. That does not need to happen, as this document demonstrates.”

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## [Get ready for quarantine units](#)

From Monday 11 September, livestock keepers in Wales will be able to choose between using an approved Quarantine Unit (QU) to manage livestock movements or continuing to adhere to the Six Day Standstill (6DSS) on their whole holding.

The new arrangements simplify the standstill regime and allow greater

flexibility for livestock keepers, while maintaining movement control to prevent the spread of disease.

Lesley Griffiths said:

“We have developed Quarantine Units so livestock keepers have an alternative option to the Six Day Standstill arrangements. From next Monday, each individual livestock keeper will have more flexibility and be able to decide which approach – QUs or Six Day Standstill – best meets their requirements. I would advise livestock keepers, who have not yet done so, to familiarise themselves with the Quarantine Units operational rules and requirements.

Christianne Glossop added:

“QUs were developed at the request of, and in close collaboration with the industry. I am confident the additional flexibility available from Monday addresses issues raised by the industry around the Six Day Standstill whilst protecting against the spread of disease.”

More information on Quarantine Units and detailed guidance on their operational rules and requirements are available on the [animal health and welfare pages](#).

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## **Links between Wales and Aston Martin are firmly on track**

The new branding is in celebration of Aston Martin’s impending move to Wales and will be showcased globally as the V8 Vantage competes in races in Mexico, the USA, Japan, China and Bahrain in the season ahead.

Last year Aston Martin announced it had selected St Athan from 20 potential global locations for its second manufacturing facility as part of a £200M investment in new products and facilities.

Work is now underway to construct an Aston Martin manufacturing facility at St Athan which is expected to employ 750 workers by 2020, and support many more jobs in the local supply chain.

Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

“Aston Martin’s decision to move to St Athan is a huge coup for Wales. It is testament to the can do attitude of Welsh Government, and to the reputation, dedication and skills of our work force.

“We are very proud of our relationship with Aston Martin, and delighted that it will be visible for all to see on the V8 Vantage pro racing car this season.

“I wish the team all the best as they embark on the season ahead and hope that the addition of the Wales brand only serves to add to the team’s success.”

Simon Sproule Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at Aston Martin said;;

“We’ve been proud to use Aston Martin Racing to promote our partnership with the Welsh Government and the St Athan project. It’s also been a great year for Aston Martin Racing with victory in Le Mans and most recently in Mexico.”

It is estimated that Aston Martin’s move to St Athan will bring economic benefits worth around half a billion pounds to Wales. Earlier this year the Welsh Government advertised up to £60m of Aston Martin contracts on its Sell2Wales procurement channel to ensure that Welsh SMEs could benefit from the construction of the manufacturing facility.

The Welsh Government is working hard to ensure that Wales maximises the economic benefits of Aston Martin’s move to Wales and in April arranged a Business Briefing event to bring representatives of Welsh based academic institutions and innovation focused organisations together with Aston Martin’s senior management team.

As a result a number of these institutions have visited Aston Martin HQ in Gayden to discuss the potential of academic and industrial collaboration and are in active dialogue with the company on a range of potential technology development projects.