

Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Members,

I am writing to inform you that today my department launched a call for evidence seeking feedback on potential reforms to the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. This call for evidence is part of the Government's Smarter Regulation agenda to improve regulation across the UK economy to reduce burdens, push down the cost of living and drive economic growth and form part of the Government's review of Retained EU Law.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations provide consumer protections, such as requiring package organisers to establish financial protections for refunds and repatriation should the organiser become insolvent. The focus of the call for evidence is on non-flight packages. Insolvency protection for flight-based packages is delivered through the ATOL scheme, administered by the Civil Aviation Authority and overseen by the Department for Transport, with whom my department is working closely.

This call for evidence forms part of the next stage in the government's Smarter Regulation programme that began in May, with publication of *Smarter Regulation to Grow the Economy*. It seeks feedback from the travel and tourism sector on opportunities to reform package travel rules so they work best for British businesses and consumers. I am asking the sector about how the Government can deliver key consumer protections whilst stimulating business growth and innovation. The call for evidence sets out formative stage proposals to free up, in particular, the domestic tourism and travel sector from unnecessary additional regulation alongside addressing a number of areas where complexity and ambiguity adds unnecessary burdens to business and stands in the way of consumers understanding their rights.

The call for evidence will be open for a 12-week period, and we are encouraging responses from across the sector, including consumer advocacy groups, travel agents, tour operators and membership organisations. Whilst the call for evidence is open, we will be organising engagement events to discuss the proposals to hear firsthand the views from stakeholders.

Copies of the call for evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and published on GOV.UK.

I hope you find this update useful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Hollinrake MP
Minister for Enterprise, Markets, and Small Business
Department for Business and Trade