

Cllr Susan Aitken
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
George Square
Glasgow
G2 1DU

26 March 2024

Dear Cllr Aitken,

Reference: Standardisation of Chargeable Hours Across Parking Zones

We are urgently reaching out to you with a joint plea not to implement the Standardisation of Chargeable Hours Across Parking Zones in your budget proposal for 2024-27.

We acknowledge the immense financial strain the Glasgow City Council faces, mirroring the challenges encountered by the businesses we represent. The task of finding £107 million in savings over the next three years is daunting, especially while striving to maintain essential services such as education with dwindling resources and escalating costs.

However, it is important to recognise the ongoing hardships faced by businesses and their workers across all sectors in Glasgow. They have weathered four tumultuous years, grappling with the ramifications of the pandemic, surging inflation, soaring interest rates and persistent operational expenses.

In particular, businesses in the hospitality and retail sectors are teetering on the brink of collapse. Numerous beloved establishments have already sadly closed their doors permanently in recent years. The Scottish Government's failure to extend the 75% rates relief to businesses in these sectors is not helpful either. We also have grave concerns around the potential impact on the safety of both staff and customers, at a time when there are ongoing public transport challenges such as its reliability and frequency at night.

We therefore ask the council administration to reconsider the Standardisation of Chargeable Hours Across Parking Zones and discard its implementation altogether.

Virtually all businesses and many workers in the city fear its potential adverse effects, from diminished turnover to challenges in staff retention and recruitment. More alarmingly, it poses a significant threat to hundreds of jobs in bars, restaurants, theatres, and nightclubs throughout the city, potentially leading to the closure of numerous otherwise viable enterprises. The ripple effect

could jeopardise the livelihoods of the supply chains of these businesses as well. We simply cannot let this happen.

We stand ready to work with the city administration in supporting Glasgow's business community and helping make the city thrive and flourish.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Montgomery, Director & Spokesperson – Scottish Hospitality Group
Hisashi Kuboyama, Development Manager – Federation of Small Businesses
Michael Bergson, Director – Buck's Bar
Michael Grieve, Chairman – Night Time Industries Association Scotland
Brian Kelly, Chair – Possilpark Business Improvement District
Jonny McDonald, Chair – My Shawlands Business Improvement District
Stuart Patrick CBE, Chief Executive – Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
Bryan Simpson, Lead Organiser – Unite Hospitality
Leon Thompson, Executive Director – UK Hospitality Scotland
Paul Togneri, Senior Advisor – Scottish Beer & Pub Association
John Turner, Chair – Byres Road & Lanes Business Improvement District
Alessandro Varese, Director – Blue Lagoon Fish & Chip Shops LTD
Colin Wilkinson, Managing Director – Scottish Licensed Trade Association



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