



focus

on hospitality

aston recruitment

About Aston Recruitment

Aston Recruitment specialise in the Hospitality, Catering, Leisure, Retail, Food Management and Service Industry sectors. We recruit permanent, temporary and contract roles for our clients and candidates.

'Working in Partnership' – we successfully support and develop both our clients businesses and our candidate careers.

Aston Recruitment has established itself as the leading independent hospitality recruitment consultancy in Scotland with the ability to recruit throughout the UK.

We have five core values here at Aston Recruitment that we believe contribute to our continued growth and success. These attributes are not only at the heart of our business, but can also be found in the individuals that work at Aston and they are Fun, Integrity, Respect, Sense of Pride and Teamwork.

For Candidates

We respect your expectations, and are firmly committed to ensuring that you, where possible, gain employment where you are able to develop your professional skills to the highest level.

We cover a range of full-time, part-time, temporary, permanent and contract opportunities within the Hospitality Industry.



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NEWSLETTER

JULY
2017

NO DROP IN UK HOTEL BOOKINGS AFTER WESTMINSTER ATTACK



There was no drop in UK hotel bookings following the terror attack in Westminster in March this year, which left five people dead.

According to research from the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR), occupancy in the UK rose by 1.3% in April as compared to the same period the year before.

The finding is welcome news for UK hoteliers, and is in contrast to the situation that French hoteliers faced following attacks in both Paris and Nice, where bookings were hit.

It was reported in August 2016 that French occupancy rates slumped in the months since 130 people were killed in Paris in November 2015, with visitor numbers dwindling further after 85 people were massacred in Nice in July 2016. Occupancy rates in Paris hotels were estimated to have halved. Growth for UK hoteliers in April 2017 was driven mostly by prices, which rose 5.6% in local currency against the same period a year before.

The performance in the UK reflected a positive picture across much of the rest of Europe. April figures showed an increase in revpar of 4.3% in April for Europe as a whole, while occupancy rates were up by 2.3 percentage points.

The results tally with recent figures from VisitBritain, which showed that April was a record month for inbound tourism to the UK, with 3.7 million visitors arriving in the country in April, up 19% compared to the same period last year.

The ALMR is a national trade body representing the interests of the UK's eating and drinking out sector. Its membership includes pubs, restaurants, bars, nightclubs and coffee shops, and the ALMR represents over 90% of all managed pubs in the UK.

Kate Nicholls, chief executive of the ALMR said: "We have an increasing body of members who operate in the hotel and accommodation sector, and as the only national trade body dedicated to representing the interests of licensed hospitality operators, we're delighted to be able to share this information which paints a continuing positive picture for the industry in the UK and throughout Europe."

RESTAURANTS SET TO FACE 320m INFLATIONARY INCREASE ON BUSINESS RATES



CVS business rent and rates specialists has warned tax bills next year (2018/19) for business rates could increase by £1.2b as a result of higher than forecasted inflation.

The Retail Prices Index (RPI), a measure of the change in the cost of a representative sample of retail goods and services, has rapidly increased from 2% last September to over 3% during the last four months, increasing from 3.5% in April to 3.7% in May – its highest level since February 2012.

The figure affects business rates because the Uniform Business Rate (UBR) multiplier, used by local authorities to calculate business rates, is uprated in line with RPI. The September RPI figure is used for the following financial year.

Within the 2016 budget, the Government announced the uprating for inflationary increases to business rates would be switched from the RPI to the lower Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure. However, implementation is not planned until 2020 and economists at Capital Economics have warned that RPI inflation could hit 4% in September – the highest level since December 2011.

CVS said if the UBR was inflated at 4%, that would add an additional yield of £1.2b to the overall business rates burden for England, and restaurants, which accounted for almost £1.1b of overall rateable values in England when the UBR was set, would face an increase of nearly £20m in bills through inflation.

Many political parties manifestos published ahead of the General Election referenced the need to reform business rates, but last week's Queen speech made no reference to the promised review.

Mark Rigby, chief executive of CVS, said: "When I met with the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, ahead of the budget, I urged him to accelerate the switch from RPI to CPI and to implement that change from April this year. With higher operational costs through increases to both the National and Minimum Living Wages, the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy and higher business rates bills as a result of the revaluation, it does beg the question how much more are businesses expected to take?"



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HOSPITALITY VACANCIES

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR CURRENT VACANCIES.....

GENERAL MANAGER

Sector: Multi-faceted Business
Salary DOE
Edinburgh
[Contact: Neill Forrest]

GENERAL MANAGER

Sector: Bar
Up to 45k plus Live out Allowance
Oxford
[Contact: Neill Forrest]

SOUS CHEF

Sector: Hotel
Up to 24.8k plus Live In
Jersey
[Contact: Mark Rawlings-Lloyd]

HEAD PASTRY CHEF

Sector: Hotel
Up to 24.7k plus Live In
Bath
[Contact: Mark Rawlings-Lloyd]

SOUS CHEF

Sector: Luxury Hotel
Up to 25k plus Benefits
Dundee Area
[Contact: Mark Lambson]

SOUS CHEF

Sector: High Volume Restaurant
Up to 22k plus benefits
Dundee
[Contact: Mark Lambson]

If you are interested in any of the above Vacancies then please contact:

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NEWSLETTER

JULY
2017

NEARLY HALF OF CUSTOMERS PUT OFF BY HYGIENE RATING OF LESS THAN FOUR OUT OF FIVE



Almost half (44%) of customers said they would turn away from a restaurant, café, takeaway or pub if a food hygiene rating of less than four out of five was on the door.

Commercial insurer NFU Mutual estimate over 43,000 hospitality businesses in England will be at risk when they are legally required to display food hygiene ratings on the doors in 2019.

The NFU Mutual Food Hygiene Ratings Report, published today, shows that one in seven businesses across England, Wales and Northern Ireland have a food hygiene rating of three or below. Over 82% of all English catering and hospitality businesses have a hygiene rating of four or five. While 80% of those surveyed are currently unaware of or not actively seeking the food hygiene ratings for their favourite food outlets, only one in 20 people said they would not be influenced by food hygiene ratings.

The mandatory display of food hygiene ratings schemes has already taken off in Wales and Northern Ireland, with England due to follow suit in 2019. Running in Wales since 2013, the scheme has helped to drive up standards with the number of businesses with the highest rating of five rising to 60% in 2016. Darren Seward, hospitality sector specialist at NFU Mutual, said: "Our report shows that when it comes to food safety customers have naturally high standards and that a 'good' score can no longer be seen as an aspiration but a minimum benchmark.

"It's fantastic to see that over 82% of all hospitality-sector food outlets in England have a rating of good or very good and the industry as a whole is taking real pride in food hygiene, but imminent compulsory displays are destined to be a game changer for those businesses struggling to reach the top grades. In advance of legislation changes all business owners should prioritise their food hygiene plans and processes, acting now to ensure that they have considered all hygiene and paperwork aspects rated by their local authority including cleanliness, structure and confidence in management, to ensure a continued rating of 4 or 5 for the day an inspector calls. Our free Food Hygiene Ratings Report also contains advice to help businesses achieve a good rating."

NEWS IN BRIEF.....

- **Sky launches flexible HD content across multiple hotel bedrooms**
Sky has unveiled a new way for hoteliers to provide high definition (HD) television entertainment in every bedroom.
- **Leon signs deal with Roadchef to open motorway restaurants**
Healthy fast food chain Leon has signed a franchise deal with Roadchef to open the first roadside restaurant this summer..
- **Greene King sees like-for-like sales rise 1.5%**
Greene King has reported that like-for-like sales up 1.5% thanks to strong Christmas trading and growth in its restaurant brands.
- **Bespoke Hotels to acquire Roxburghe Hotel and Golf Course**
Bespoke Hotels is set to acquire the Roxburghe Hotel and Golf Course in Kelso on the Scottish Borders from the Duke of Roxburghe's Roxburghe Estates.
- **IHG to launch new midscale hotel brand**
InterContinental Hotels Group revealed plans to launch a new midscale brand this week, however the brand does not yet have a name.
- **Burger King pledges to stop purchasing chickens raised with antibiotics**
Burger King has vowed to purchase only chicken raised without antibiotics by the end of 2018.
- **Britannia Hotels hit with £265,000 fine for breaching food safety regulations**
The 402-bedroom Adelphi hotel has been described as "an embarrassment" to Liverpool and "would make Fawlty Towers look like a five-star hotel" after its owner Britannia Hotels was fined more than £265,000 for seven breaches of food safety and hygiene regulations.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

A Duck walks in a bar..Orders a beer and says,
"Put it on my bill."

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