

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GETTING NI READY TO REOPEN – TOUR GUIDES

This webinar was delivered as part of Tourism NI's Tourism Enterprise Development (TED) Programme by Rosalind Newlands OBE BSc - President Emeritus World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) and Sharon Scott - Place Solutions. Following the session Rosalind kindly provided responses to a number of industry questions received during the webinar. Please find responses below.

Can you recommend a good microphone system for giving walking tours?

Check out the Covid 19 Webinar for Guides - there are several mentioned there but technology is improving all the time. Most are now moving to Mobile Phone apps.

With the Covid-19 Protocols for Tourist Guides, is the link provided regularly updated and does that tie in with the regs we have to follow in NI?

The link is direct to the NI government guidelines so will be automatically updated.

Insurance issues with visits to private places?

Guides always visit private places so no insurance issues as long as you have permission to be there.

Just wondering, in terms of cycling tours, if we would need to take out any additional insurance, or if our blanket tour guide association insurance covers us?

You will have to check with your insurance provider/association.

Do you feel there may be a market through employees returning to work (corporate) in 2021 and people relocating who haven't had an opportunity to explore?

Yes - absolutely.

What about the guides whose mother language is not English?

It is up to guides to market themselves to whoever they want to work with – particularly if you have a specialist skill.

What would you say is the maximum number of guests for a tour group still to be a 'small group'?

For walking tours maximum in normal circumstances would be 15 but in current situation it depends on the current government guidelines re households and numbers. Remember the guide is a household as well.



Has any research been done amongst potential staycationers to see would any of them actually book a tour guide? There is a worry that people holidaying at home will use the online resources, google maps, local tourism leaflets etc. It is usually international visitors who book a guide so this year local people may do it themselves and not book guides.

Some will use other resources but if you have special tours that are geared to the client and market them well there should be opportunities. People want reassurance and safety and that could also be the guide's role

Does Research indicate the likely demographics and socio-economic groupings of tourists for the next 2-3 years?

Likely to be small groups, multi-generational tours, people with bucket list desires to visit NI, friends and family visits.

If I have guests from abroad, do they have to pay any taxes?

No

