



## FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

13 December 2023

### **Falkland Islands Government announces support scheme for tourist sector**

Following the approval at ExCo on Tuesday 12 December, the Falkland Islands Government will now be able to provide details on a support scheme designed specifically to mitigate the effects of site closures associated with the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), also known as bird flu, on tourism businesses, operators and employees until 31 March 2024.

Tourism is an important sector for the Falkland Islands, and the Government is keen to ensure that, where possible, affected tourism-related businesses can be compensated for losses associated with HPAI-related restrictions implemented by FIG in response to HPAI.

The scheme will be administered by the Falkland Islands Tourist Board on behalf of the Government. Key features of the scheme are:

- **Linked directly to protection zones or other restrictions implemented by FIG.** The scheme seeks to compensate applicants who incur a loss as a direct result of legal restrictions imposed on access to a specific site for a specific period of time. The scheme will not compensate for cancellations for locations or time periods for which no protection zone has been implemented.
- **Available for pre-booked services.** The scheme will compensate for actual rather than potential loss. This is based on the principle that an individual or business without an existing booking was 1) not guaranteed income on the specified day and 2) had more flexibility to pursue alternative activities than an individual or business that had an existing booking.
- **Payable at 50% of unrecoverable loss.** Recognising that some operators will have cancellation policies or will be able to undertake alternative activities (e.g., a tour to an unaffected site), applicants will be required to certify that they have not been able to recover some or all of the loss incurred. The scheme will compensate at a rate of 50% of the unrecoverable loss. entry/landing fee that would typically be paid.