

## HTLroundtable british isles snapshot

Sofitel London St James, 5 September 2017

The British Isles HTLroundtable, held on 5 September, marked the three-month countdown to the European Summit in December 2017. A selection of 30 industry professionals from design to finance joined the London team of PKF hotelexperts at the Sofitel, London St James, for a discussion of the industry's latest trends.

Representatives from STR provided a welcomed analysis of data presented. UK and Ireland growth was shown to be strong including Dublin, with an approximate 18 % increase in arrivals in 2016 (up to 7.4 m), yet, still a long-fall from London's 19.1 m visitors. Overall, occupancy in the British Isles was steady between 2015/16 at approximately 77 % meanwhile ADR was up approximately 2 %, to £ 90. London also experienced minimal changes with just a 1 % decrease in revpar between 2015/16, down to around £ 117. Into 2017 however, STR data shows a different story with significant progress across the UK and Ireland, with revpar growth of 20 % in Belfast, 12 % in both Cardiff and Plymouth as well as 9 % in London.



Sofitel London St James  
source: <http://sofitelstjames.com/>

The discussions picked up quickly with the mention of Britain's ongoing exit from the European Union and its unpredictable impacts on the future of the industry, specifically labour markets, exchange rates and ultimately inbound tourism. The controversial sourcing of labour from prisons was even deliberated among attendees. Participants also discussed the industry's resilience to recent terror attacks in the UK, and changes in building regulations after the recent Grenfell Tower fire.

The evening moved on to the Sofitel bar and then to the Gordon Ramsay's Heddon Street Kitchen for an informal dinner and further discussion between participants.

### About HTLroundtable Europe:

HTLroundtable is a high-profile discussion platform - by invitation only - for decision-makers in the hotel, tourism & leisure sector organised by PKF hotelexperts Vienna since 2009 in hotels in 16 European capital cities. Topics focus on the hospitality sector in the particular countries and regions.

The aim of these events is to create an industry network of international experts from hotel groups, real estate companies, investment institutions, banks, law practices, suppliers and consulting firms to exchange their views on the future of the hotel and tourism industry in the region.

At the conclusion of the two 90-minute discussions, participants are cordially invited to an informal dinner at or near the host hotel.

### HTLroundtable partners:



### HTL contacts:

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