



MEDIA RELEASE

11TH APRIL, 2021

The Gozo Tourism Association notes the announcement made by the Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Hon. Clayton Bartolo, whereby two schemes were launched to be run by the Malta Tourism Authority, including Incentives for Free Independent Travellers (FIT), as well as incentives targeting tour operators operating to Malta.

Whilst acknowledging Governments' efforts to support and restart the tourism sector, the Gozo Tourism Association notes that the Free Independent Travellers (FIT) scheme intended to incentivise foreign visitors with an additional 10% add on if the visitors are bound for a Gozitan accommodation, covers only those bookings in the hotels (5-star, 4-star and 3-star).

The Gozo Tourism Association would like to draw the attention that out of all the Malta Tourism Authority licensed accommodation units in Gozo, only 25% are in the Hotels sector, while the other 75% are in the self-catering sector (farmhouses, villas, apartments etc.). Therefore, through this scheme the independent travellers staying in the majority of the licensed accommodation in Gozo are not entitled for these incentives.

Furthermore, as proposed, this scheme will be beneficial only to those individual travellers who opt to stay in the 14 accommodation establishments that fall under the category of the Hotels in Gozo.

To this end the Gozo Tourism Association on behalf of the self-catering owners and operators is calling on Government to make the necessary adjustments to the proposed scheme, in a way that it covers and incentivises also the tourists who book their holidays in the self-catering sector.

Extending this scheme to cover all licensed accommodation in Gozo is ensuring a proper mix of quality accommodation. Meanwhile the Gozo Tourism Association is always available and open for further consultation and discussion on this matter-

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