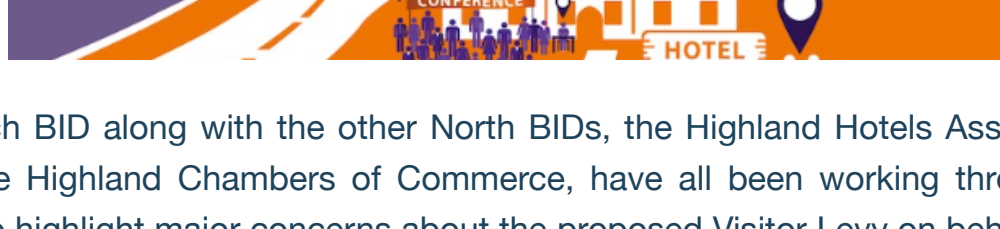




DORNOCH BID NEWSLETTER

PROPOSED VISITOR LEVY PAUSED - CHANGES TO LEGISLATION ANNOUNCED

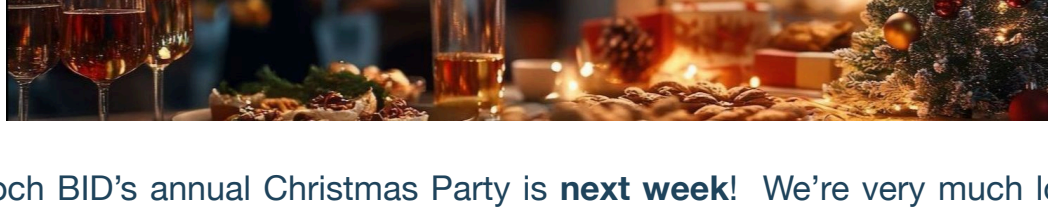


Dornoch BID along with the other North BIDs, the Highland Hotels Association and the Highland Chambers of Commerce, have all been working throughout 2025 to highlight major concerns about the proposed Visitor Levy on behalf of all our members.

There was some welcome news last week with Scottish Government's announcement that the visitor levy legislation will be amended to allow a flat or banded rate instead of a percentage fee. The planned legislative amendment, expected early in the New Year, has led Highland Council to recommend pausing the levy's rollout so it can be redesigned accordingly. The full article can be read [HERE](#).

DORNOCH BID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

(19th DECEMBER)



Dornoch BID's annual Christmas Party is **next week!** We're very much looking forward to a wonderful evening of great company, fabulous food and festive fun in the brand new Royal Dornoch Clubhouse! Tickets for the Christmas Party can still be purchased **this week** but if you want to join us for a memorable night out you need to buy your tickets very soon!

Sales close this Friday at 8pm. Staff members and/or employers can purchase tickets [HERE](#). Royal Dornoch Golf Club members can use their **10% member discount** at the bar and/or in advance when placing orders for drinks at the table.

DORNOCH HOGMANAY STREET PARTY

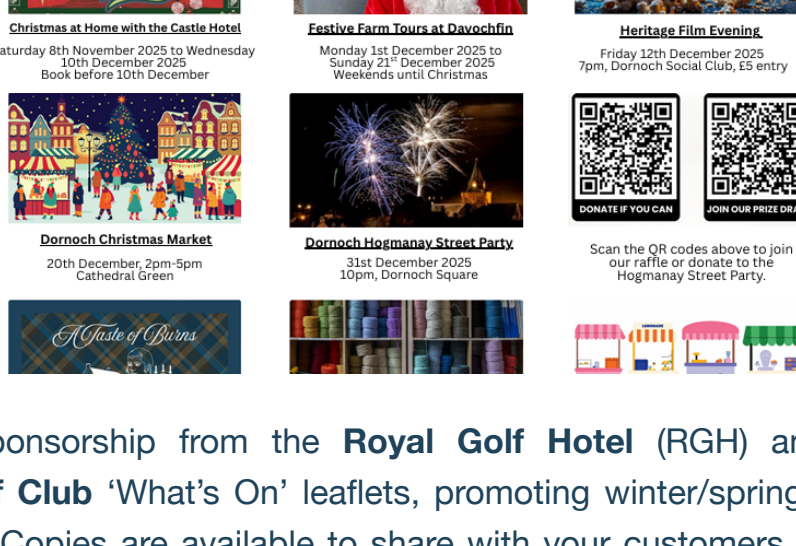


Dornoch's famous Hogmanay Street Party is run each year by a small, dedicated team and funded **entirely** by donations and raffle ticket sales! Extra help is **always appreciated** and every bit of support helps secure future Hogmanay celebrations. This year, help is sought from the business community in the following ways:

- Displaying Hogmanay posters, available to download [HERE](#).
- **Providing raffle prizes** and **selling raffle tickets** in your premises.
- **Volunteering** to help with the bucket collection and selling raffle tickets on the night.
- **Vouchers** for the volunteers would also be appreciated.

If you can help in any way, please email Lou Rollason: louindornoch@gmail.com

'WHAT'S ON' WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMME



Thanks to sponsorship from the **Royal Golf Hotel (RGH)** and the **Royal Dornoch Golf Club** 'What's On' leaflets, promoting winter/spring events, have been printed. Copies are available to share with your customers from the RGH and digital copies are available [HERE](#).

QR codes for the Hogmanay Street Party, along with codes to our **'Events'** and **'Things to Do'** pages are included. **Please remember** and let us know about your events or deals so that they can be promoted on the website throughout the year.



Job listings and **Candidate Matching Services** are just some of what is on offer from **Live North**. Helping employers connect with skilled people in Caithness, Sutherland and beyond, you can list your vacancies on the Live North website completely **free of charge** [HERE](#).

Live North also has a **Candidate Matching Service** to help reach people who are ready to live and work in the North Highlands. More details on how Live North can help you find candidates are available [HERE](#).

NORTH COAST 500 SURVEY

North Coast 500 Ltd is asking Dornoch BID members to complete a survey on how the NC500 affects local businesses and the environment. The results will contribute to a new ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) Framework being developed independently by BiGGAR Economics.

David Richardson, NC500's Development & Engagement Manager and Dornoch resident, says that while the NC500 has boosted Highland businesses immensely by encouraging more visitors and their money north and west of Inverness, the pressures from increased numbers on residents and the environment are obvious. The Framework will help identify actions to maximise benefits, address challenges, and monitor progress with everything being shared with the public.

NC500 Ltd is pleased Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise are supporting the study and it's hoped that as many Dornoch businesses as possible complete the Business Survey and if possible the Residents Survey. There is also a visitor survey you are welcome to share with your customers:

- Survey for NC500 Businesses - [HERE](#)
- Survey for NC500 Visitors - [HERE](#)
- Survey for NC500 Residents - [HERE](#)

FESTIVE BUSINESS LUNCH INVITATION



Dornoch BID members are invited to the North Highlands Chamber of Commerce Festive Lunch, in association with Highlands and Islands Enterprise. For more details and/or to book your space please see [HERE](#).

DRAFT NDR RATEABLE VALUES PUBLISHED

Draft Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Rateable Values for Scotland were published on 30 November ahead of the new revaluation that comes into effect on 1 April 2026. Businesses can check their updated draft values on the Scottish Assessors Association (SAA) website [HERE](#).

If you think your new value is too high or incorrect, you should submit a challenge ("proposal") by 31 July 2026 through the SAA website or directly to your local assessor (email or in writing) [HERE](#). If the proposal outcome is unsatisfactory, you may later appeal to the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland.

The actual financial impact is not yet known, as the Scottish Budget in January 2026 will confirm the Rates payable from April 2026 and any changes to relief schemes. Currently, 100% Small Business Bonus Scheme relief applies up to £12,000 RV, but there's no confirmation yet on whether this threshold will change for 2026. Details on how to submit a challenge are available [HERE](#).

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

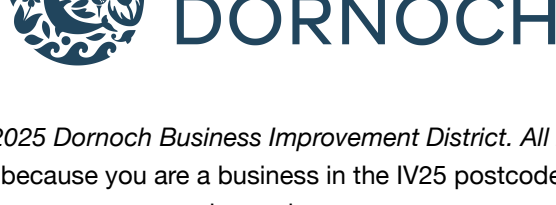
Stay up to date - The Minutes of the monthly **BID Board meetings** are saved at the bottom of the website homepage.

WhatsApp Groups - There are **Retail**, **Accommodation**, **Restaurant** and **Professional Services** WhatsApp groups. Please text the BID on **07471 200103** to have your number added to the relevant group.

Dornoch BID FB Page - This is for member communications, business updates, funding opportunities, consultations, a behind-the-scenes look at how we support businesses, plus the latest on local projects and ways to get involved in our community. Please follow **@dornochbid** on Facebook and tag us to re-share your updates. Give this page a like and/or leave a comment.

This Is Dornoch FB and Instagram - Follow **@thisisdornoch** on Facebook and **@visitdornoch** on Instagram for the latest on what's on, discover local shops & services, seasonal events, town news, community celebrations, and tourism campaigns bringing visitors to the town and tag us to re-share your posts.

Get in touch - Email DornochBID@thisisdornoch.com to discuss any membership matter and/or to arrange a call or meeting with Sharon, Dornoch BID Manager.



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You are receiving this email because you are a business in the IV25 postcode that qualifies under the BID levy scheme.

Our mailing address is:

Dornoch Business Improvement District c/o Mackay and Co Unit 8, Business Park Golspie, Sutherland
KW10 6UB United Kingdom