

NHS keyworker accommodation by planned field hospital, Manchester Central, to be coordinated by Marketing Manchester and the Association of Serviced Apartment Providers

- Planned field hospitals across the UK need nearby temporary accommodation for frontline NHS keyworkers
- Manchester Central to be the next field hospital, after London's Excel Arena
- Accommodation trade body ASAP is already matching available accommodation with NHS keyworkers' needs across the country

Four field hospitals will be set up across the UK, with the first, at the Excel Arena, almost ready to receive patients. Now the Marketing Manchester team has partnered with the Association of Serviced Apartment Providers (ASAP) to coordinate the search for accommodation around the field hospital planned for the Manchester Central Convention Centre. ASAP is already busy matching requests for accommodation in London and elsewhere around the UK with those operators who have availability, so is perfectly placed to help.

James Foice, ASAP CEO, says: "Last week we were called on by footballer Wilfried Zaha to join him in finding accommodation for our brave NHS and other keyworkers.

"We put out an immediate request for Members to help, and we had an overwhelming number of communications back, from operators offering accommodation for keyworkers, and from keyworkers looking for accommodation.

"We knew we were in a position to match these needs efficiently and set up systems to help. Since then, sadly, the situation has become ever more urgent."

Marketing Manchester's Stephanie Newton, Head of Business Tourism, was delighted with the offer of assistance.

"This was becoming a massive task, and we didn't have the systems or resources to coordinate all the different bodies offering and needing accommodation at this difficult time. Just at the right time, I was introduced to James by Shaun Hinds, Chief Executive at Manchester Central, who has worked with ASAP in the past."

James Foice agrees: "This is pretty complex; but we're already making it work at a national level.

"I am not surprised that our amazing Members have rallied in support; they form a fantastic community of hospitality professionals. And now, we are set up, poised and ready to accept this challenge, wherever it arises, across the country."

Two more field hospitals are planned for similar sites in the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham and Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

Further Media information:

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Background

Serviced apartments are ideal for key workers who need the autonomy, safety, security and space that they offer, perfect for anyone needing to self-isolate, or live away from home but still be close to work, offering fully-fitted kitchens with cooking facilities and washing machines.

ASAP: Association of Serviced Apartment Providers – <http://www.theasap.org.uk> - is the not-for-profit trade body dedicated exclusively to the serviced apartment industry. The website offers the route for keyworkers to register their needs and links to our Members' accommodation.

ASAP's directory Staywithconfidence.com, is the world's first directory for the Serviced Apartment sector and has a portal to lead both those looking for accommodation and those offering it to register their needs or availability. These Serviced Apartment Provider and Agent companies listed have all met a minimum standard of ISAAP Compliance and Accreditation giving assurance to the consumer that the required standards of safety, security and duty of care have been met.