

Amid the unusual backdrop of unfolding developments in the public health situation, the Consell de Formentera will extend the validity of holiday rental permits another year. Set to receive approval in local government's upcoming February plenary, the move marks a continuation of the extension adopted at the pandemic's start. "Crises in public health and the economy and across society have not dissipated", said President Alejandra Ferrer, "so we'll be tacking on another 12-month extension to holiday rental permits at our February full-house session".

Permits issued while earlier regulations were in force and which were due to expire in 2021 will be automatically extended. The change also affects previously extended permits. An associated €70 fee is typically charged for such permits, which are valid for one year.

Plan for quality

In May 2020, with the island poised to adopt a new "plan for quality" for the 2019-2024 period, local legislators opted to suspend the new plan's rollout in favour of extending the 2015-2019 plan until December 2021. President Ferrer said the about-turn was about giving islanders additional time to make investments required to meet new conditions on holiday rentals.

In Ferrer's words, "2020 and 2021 have seen the adoption of various rebates, extensions and subsidies for businesses and families. The extensions are designed to palliate the ongoing economic recession in local tourism by scrapping fees associated with holiday rentals."

16 February 2021

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