

The travel industry is putting pressure on the Government to rethink a reshuffle which has spelled the end of a dedicated minister for tourism.

It had been confirmed that John Penrose, who stood down from his role as Tourism Minister this week, will not be directly replaced.

Instead, Sports Minister Hugh Robertson will take on responsibility for tourism.

ABTA chairman John McEwan has written to the Prime Minister to express the association's "serious concerns" about the move and to seek David Cameron's personal assurance that the reshuffle does not constitute a downgrading of the tourism portfolio within Government.

The travel industry had lobbied for a dedicated minister for tourism and was finally rewarded when Penrose was appointed in 2010.

Here's what industry leaders had to say about this week's changes:

Tourism Society chairman David Curtis-Brignell

"It is appalling that this was allowed to happen when the Prime Minister has on many occasions spoken of his support for the fifth largest industry. We were thrilled when David Cameron made his "importance of tourism" speech in the first 100 days of his premiership, but was the Prime Minister's support for Tourism just lip service?"

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