



**Office of the Premier
Turks and Caicos Government**

Consultation paper Daylight Saving

April 2017

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SCOPE OF THE CONSULTATION	
Topic of consultation	<p>This consultation seeks views on the reinstatement of Daylight Saving Time as the standard time for the Turks and Caicos. It covers the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ENERGY USE, 2. PUBLIC SAFETY, 3. HEALTH, 4. ECONOMIC EFFECTS, 5. INCONVENIENCE
Scope of this consultation:	The Government is keen on hearing the views of all parties on the reinstatement of Daylight Saving Time as the standard time for the Islands.
Geographical scope:	The reinstatement of Daylight Saving Time relates to Turks and Caicos Islands only.
CONSULTATION BASIC INFORMATION	
To:	This is a public consultation about the reinstatement of Daylight Saving Time in Turks and Caicos Islands. Anyone with an interest in the proposal for reinstatement may respond.
Bodies/responsible for the consultation	This consultation is being run by the Office of The Premier in conjunction with the Office of District Administration.
Duration	This consultation will last for 4 weeks from April 6 th to May 6 th 2017
Enquires	For any enquiries about the consultation please contact consultation@gov.tc or telephone 649-3385744
How to respond:	You may respond by completing an online survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/daylightsaving

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS - The Turks and Caicos Islands has historically observed Daylight Saving Time as the standard time, since the turn of 19th century. In August 2014, following consultation with stakeholders, the Government, through Cabinet, took the decision to cease the practice of observing Daylight Saving Time and to adopt the Atlantic Standard Time (AST) UTC-4 all year round, which is four hours behind the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

The decision of Cabinet was largely based on the benefits of extended daylight to the tourism sector, which would have extended the hour's visitors could spend enjoying the excursions and thereby benefitting local businesses as well as their own quest for self-enjoyment.

The implementation and observation of Atlantic Standard Time as the standard time for the Islands was delayed until 2015 to allow sufficient notice, before implementation, to be provided to key stakeholders in the aviation and tourism sectors.

The Turks and Caicos Islands currently operates on Atlantic Standard Time (AST) year-round, making it one hour ahead of cities like New York and Toronto when the U.S. and Canada are on standard time.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight savings is defined as “the practice of advancing standard time by one hour in the spring of each year and of setting it back by one hour in the fall in order to gain an extra period of daylight during the early evening” (Dictionary.com.2017).

First introduced in the Second World War the practice of daylight savings was adopted as a method to reduce fuel consumption. Since then daylight saving has been in use for more than 100 years. While the adoption of Daylight Saving Time is almost always rife with controversy, approximately 70 countries utilize Daylight Saving Time in at least a portion of the country. The Japan, India, and China are the only major industrialized countries that do not observe some form of daylight saving. The below tables illustrates the regional and key countries that have adopted daylight saving, other than those listed in the table below, no other Caribbean country has daylight saving in effect.

COUNTRY- DAYLIGHT SAVING START- DAYLIGHT SAVING END
United Kingdom March 30 October 26
United States March 9 November 2
Bahamas March 9 November 2
Bermuda March 9 November 2
Brazil October 19 February 16
Cuba March 9 November 2
Haiti March 9 November 2
Mexico April 6 October 26

Source: Web Exhibits 2017.

KEY CONSULTATION CONSIDERATIONS

1. RE-INTRODUCTION OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Following the 2014 Cabinet’s decision, the Turks and Caicos Islands has been observing Atlantic Standard Time all year long.

There is significant debate on the advantages and disadvantages of observing daylight saving. Some arguments are based on research and scientific study, but these should be taken in the context of the country in which the study was based. No studies have been undertaken in our islands and as such the Government seek your feedback and participation in reviewing the current practice.

The debate on the advantages and disadvantages of daylight saving can be separated into five areas: Energy Use, Public Safety, Health, Economic Effects, and Inconvenience.

1.1 ENERGY USE

A common argument is that the extra hour of daylight that results from daylight saving will reduce energy consumption, as there will be less use of electricity for lighting. A counter argument is that the use of electricity will increase in the darker morning hours that result from daylight saving. A variety of studies in several countries provide some support for both sides of this argument, suggesting that the potential benefit of electricity use reduction is only a marginal benefit.

1.2 PUBLIC SAFETY

Studies in both the US and UK suggest that daylight saving can result in small, significant decreases in traffic fatalities. However, some research has suggested an increase in traffic fatalities in the two weeks after daylight saving starts, presumably because of persons adjusting to time change. One additional concern is that school children will be arriving at school while it is still dark. This may be a concern because of potential safety issues.

Crime and public safety is a consideration, the extended darkness of the mornings provides optimum cover for engagement in these undesirable activities, and further hampers the opportunity for eyewitness detection, facial recognition or identification of other characteristics of offenders that could aid investigations and prosecutions.

1.3 HEALTH

Findings of the impact of daylight saving on health have also had mixed results. Some advocates argue the benefits of daylight saving allows an extra hour of sunlight for outside physical activity, on the other hand, critics highlight the studies that have shown that the disruptive effect of the time transition on sleep patterns can have an impact on the incidence of heart attacks. Other have noted that "Transitions associated with the start and end of Daylight Saving disturb sleep patterns and make people restless at night, which results in sleepiness the next day. This is true even during a "Fall Back" period, since when we "Fall Back," we might have trouble adjusting to going to sleep "later" after the time change. "(Lahti et al 2008)

1.4 ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The agriculture and fishing sector has generally been against daylight saving, as these activities are closely aligned to the sun. However as tourism is a leading sector, we seek to understand the impact and the benefits of daylight saving on financial services and tourism. If TCI were to reinstate daylight saving, the TCI will align with the Eastern United States of America and other tourism Financial Services partners.

Further economic consideration for the reinstatement of daylight saving includes:

- being in sync with the large client base on the East Coast for tourism and business
- eliminate some discrepancies arising in travel schedules that will make travel simpler
- stimulate shopping and dining experiences
- it would make it easier for some visitors to adapt to local time
- effect of daylight saving on work productivity
- cost of change and reinstatement.

The government will hold a month long consultation on the review of Atlantic standard time. Interested parties are encouraged to respond by completing an online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/daylightsaving> Or submit a written comment via email to consultation@gov.tc

The consultation document will be available on line and published through local print and electric media, including TCIG press office and Radio Turks and Caicos.

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Dictionary.com Unabridged, Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2017.

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