

SMOFcon 2021 in Europe

General

- Contact for questions from fandom (*including email address*):
A: Vincent Docherty Vincent.Docherty@gmail.com
- What site are you proposing?
A: Somewhere in Europe – either somewhere easy to get to, like near London Heathrow Airport, or somewhere warmer and with attractions, such as Prague, Amsterdam, Barcelona.
- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?
A: Likely Vincent Docherty (twice Worldcon chair) and a multitude of people from Europe and other places, many with a lot of experience.
- What is the size of con-running fandom in your host city?
A: Many across Europe.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
A: In the first weekend Dec 2017 current rates to London are showing: Boston \$600+, Chicago \$850, LA 650+, Melbourne \$1100+ (*For some reason the Chicago flights are more expensive – perhaps an artifact of looking at it two weeks ahead.*)
- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?
A: If London then many, many flights. The other options all have major international airports.
- How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the realistic cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?
A: If Heathrow then very convenient including free bus service.

Facilities

- What venue do you plan to use for the convention?
A: If Heathrow, then one of several hotels close-by which have been used by conventions such as the UK Eastercon (eg. The Park Inn, Heathrow.) They have lots of function and social space.
- What are your expected hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?
A: For the same weekend in 2017 the Park in is showing cheapest internet rate of £58, regular rate of £68 and including breakfast £78. All include UK Sales tax. It's not high season in most of the other European cities, so a rate in the low \$100 per room, including tax is likely.
- Is there free internet in all the hotel rooms?
A: Usually yes.
- What does parking cost at your hotel?
A: Available – tbc.
- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.
A: In Heathrow mostly in the hotels.

- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?
A: Almost certainly in the hotel bar area, as usual in Europe, supplemented with limited catering in function space, subject to corkage - To be worked on.
- Are there any rules or conditions expected to be in force which would surprise us?
A: Hard to say – the Brexit thing could lead in many strange directions!

Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the usual temperature and chance of rain during that time of year? Do not provide the historic high or low that makes your site appear attractive. (Stephen and Deb can use google too)
A: It's Europe in December – bring layers, sensible shoes and an umbrella.
- Do you have a published code of conduct?
A: There will be one.