

Holiday Lettings Remote Availability Update Service (HL-RAUS)

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What is the HL Remote Availability Update Service?

The Remote Availability Update Service enables you to maintain your property's Availability Calendar without having to log into the HL website.

Simply put, as soon as you have added the functionality to your systems, the Holiday Lettings availability calendar for your advert is synchronised, in real-time, with your own website. The advantages to you are primarily twofold:

- 1) You don't need to spend time updating two websites, leaving you free to get on with your business.
- 2) Regular updates of the availability calendar helps your adverts appear higher in holidaymakers search results, which hopefully should result in more bookings for you.

How do I register for the service?

Contact your Account Manager. You will be asked to provide HL with up to four IP addresses from which you intend to access the service; as soon as HL have received the address or addresses then we will be able to provide you with a 30-character Secret Key.

How long will it take to add the functionality?

This service is very simple to work with, technically, and your development team should be able to add it to your systems within half a day.

Will this boost me in availability search results?

Yes, but only once every 7 days – updates that are posted more regularly than that will not change your position in the search results.

Technical Information

How does the service work?

The service enables you to update your Availability Calendar using a web page link (URL) similar to the one below:

https://agentapi.holidaylettings.co.uk/service_avail.aspx?act=update&start=StartDate&end=EndDate&status=Status&owner_id=OwnerID&home_id=HomeID&secret=SecretKey

You will need to provide us with the following information, which should be sent to us by substituting the bold red text in the URL as follows:

- **StartDate**: the first date in the range of dates that you wish to update (in yyyy-mm-dd format, e.g. 2013-01-01)
- **EndDate**: The date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the last full day of the booking (i.e. Departure date minus 1)
- **Status**: All nights from StartDate to EndDate inclusive will be set to available, booked or reserved according to this value.
 - o 'a' to mark the home as available.
 - o 'b' to mark booked.
 - o 'r' to mark reserved.
- **OwnerID**: your OwnerID
- **HomeID**: the ID of the Home whose calendar you want to update
- **SecretKey**: your Secret Key for authentication, as provided by your Account Manager. This key is case sensitive.

An example URL can be found later in this document.

How will I know if my remote update has worked?

If your update is successful, the web page will return the word "OK", otherwise it will return an explicit error messages explaining what the error is.

Examples:

- Start Date or End Date in incorrect format
- Secret Key '2L9HOI3ZS4SDFSDFGDFGENUZ8BWS' not matched for Advertiser ID 97454
- Owner 9874 not found
- Status is not a, b or r
- ...

Please check all of the details that you have provided, including:

- Start Date and End Date, which must be in yyyy-mm-dd format (e.g. 2013-02-29)
- Availability Status, which must be either a, b or r

- Your Owner ID and Home ID, which should be numeric
- Your Secret Key, which must be 30 characters in length

In the event that help if you can't find out where the issue is, please contact HL for assistance.

What if I send dates that are outside your calendar?

If the period submitted contains dates within the range we store, we'll make the change on those dates only and return "OK". If the period is entirely outside the range we store, we'll return "INVALID Start Date or End Date in incorrect format".

Can I see an example URL?

The following example URL will update the Availability Calendar for Home 3620 (owned by Owner 1745, whose Secret Key is "abcde12345abcde12345abcde12345") such that all nights between 1st April 2013 and 31st July 2013 inclusive are marked as booked:

https://agentapi.holidaylettings.co.uk/service_avail.aspx?act=update&start=2013-04-01&end=2013-07-31&status=b&owner_id=1745&home_id=3620&secret=ABCDE12345ABCDE12345ABCDE12345

Are there any other features?

If you need a list of the homes that you have on an account, you can call:

https://agentapi.holidaylettings.co.uk/service_avail.aspx?act=homelist&owner_id=OwnerID&secret=SecretKey

You will get an XML document back with Home IDs, Home Names, whether or not the homes are active and Third Party References.

How can I find out more about the Remote Availability Update Service?

This document should give you all the information you need to start using the HL Remote Availability Update service. If you still have unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Account Manager.