

BUSINESS RATE RELIEF & SUPPLEMENTS

NEW RELIEF – PUBLIC HOUSES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Whilst the Government is not changing the Legislation that governs business rates, it is introducing specific measures for the financial year 2020/21 following the unprecedented impact of the CORONAVIRUS [COVID-19] on the economy.

Historic financial support, available to ratepayers e.g. Small Business Rates relief, rural rates relief remains in place, but, new guidelines apply.

BUSINESS RATES RETAIL DISCOUNT – ENGLAND AND WALES

In response to Covid-19 the Retail discount threshold of £51,000 was removed; the business rates retail discount was increased from 50% to 100% and also expanded to include hospitality and leisure businesses; in England this is irrespective of rateable value, however in Wales the discount is limited to rateable values below £500,000.

This means eligible businesses will have ZERO liability for 12 months from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021.

Eligible businesses will be issued with a new bill confirming zero rate liability for 12 months from April 2020.

Ratepayers that occupy more than one property will be **entitled to relief for each of their eligible properties**.

STATE AID RULES

The government has applied to the EU for retail discounts to be exempt from EU state aid rules. **A decision is awaited.** State aid rules will apply to all grants to a limit of €800,000.

GRANTS – ENGLAND

Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant

Eligible businesses, with a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will be allowed to apply for a government cash grant of £25,000 per property.

Small Business Grant Fund

All active businesses within the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors currently eligible for "small business rate relief" or "rural rates relief", and with a rateable value of up to £15,000, will receive a one-off cash grant from the Government of £10,000 per property. Eligible businesses will be contacted by their local authority.

Eligibility

Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over are **NOT** eligible for this scheme.

Grant funding will only be paid to the person who according to the billing authority records was the rate payer in respect of the property on the 11th March 2020.

GRANTS – WALES

The Welsh Government announced a similar support package for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses in Wales.

A grant of £25,000 will be offered to businesses with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000.

Small Business Grant Fund

A £10,000 grant will be provided to all businesses eligible for Small Business Rates Relief with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

For specific details on the eligibility criteria, administration and the application for the Grants & funding contact your local authority.

For the latest information go to: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

This will provide you with guidance for business/staff/health and other concerns.

For assistance, please contact:

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BUSINESS RATE RELIEF & SUPPLEMENTS

BUSINESS RATE REVIEWS - ALL PUBLIC HOUSES

It is of course still important to regularly review and where applicable to challenge business rates, whether to seek historic refunds on overpaid business rates, to reduce RVs below the £51,000 threshold to enable the application for Grants, or to ensure that the base level from which future business rates are calculated is at the lowest possible level.

EMPTY PROPERTY RATE RELIEF

Unfortunately, empty properties in England, Scotland and Wales will not benefit from the COVID-19 business rates support measure.

Empty rate relief is available at 100% for an initial 3-month exemption period for properties other than industrial/warehouse which is at 6 months. Thereafter 100% liability payable.

NEW RELIEF – PUBLIC HOUSES IN SCOTLAND

Whilst the Government is not changing the Legislation that governs business rates, it is introducing specific measures for the financial year 2020/21 following the unprecedented impact of the CORONAVIRUS [COVID-19] on the economy.

BUSINESS RATES RETAIL DISCOUNT – SCOTLAND

In response to Covid-19, the Scottish Government is providing 100% rates relief to all occupied retail, hospitality & leisure businesses.

GRANTS – SCOTLAND

Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with a rateable value between £18,000 and up to and including £51,000 will be able to apply for a one-off grant of £25,000.

A one-off grant of £10,000 will also be available to small businesses who get Small Business Bonus Scheme relief and will apply from 1 April 2020 for 12 months.



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