

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Qualifying Criteria for Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Financial Year 2017/18

In the Spring Budget, the Government announced that, as the result of the Business Rates revaluation which became effective from 1 April 2017, it would provide additional support to businesses affected by the increases.

The Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme will be available for 4 years, and this scheme applies to year one: 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2018 only.

The relief will only be considered if:

- your business rates have increased due to the 2017 revaluation
- your property was entered in the business rates valuation list and you were in occupation on 31st March 2017.

The amount of relief the Council is able to offer under the scheme will be limited to the funding provided to us by Government and does not apply in respect of any Business Rate Supplement. The scheme has been awarded £2.387m for the first year and this amount will be allocated to this financial year, 2017/2018.

The amount of relief you receive may be reduced or removed if your bill changes for any of the following reasons:

- a reduction in rateable value in the 2010 and, or 2017 rating lists
- the issue of a transitional certificate for the 2010 rating list or historical change
- the application of any additional rate relief or exemption
- vacation and re-occupation of the property
- any other reason that reduces the amount you have to pay.

The scheme will apply to all occupied properties with a rateable value between £15,000 and £200,000. If a ratepayer occupies two properties, the combined rateable values must be less than £400,000.

Businesses not included or eligible for the scheme

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureau de change, payday lenders, betting shops, amusement arcades, pawn brokers, ATM's)
- Car Parks and individual car spaces
- Post office sorting office
- Advertising rights and premises
- Bingo Halls
- Communication stations

Further Exclusions - For properties where any of the following apply, the ratepayer will not be eligible for the relief:

- Ratepayers in receipt of small business rate relief support, which limits increases on small properties caused by the loss of small business rates relief to £600
- New ratepayers occupying properties after 1st April 2017
- Properties which did not appear in the rating list on 1st April 2017, (Relief will not apply where properties are entered into the list retrospectively)
- Properties which are unoccupied
- Large publicly funded bodies or organisations such as; TFL, NHS hospitals, law courts, local authority school properties

State Aid

The application form requires you to confirm that you have not received any other State Aid that exceeds in total €200,000. This includes any other rates relief (other than exemptions, transitional or mandatory reliefs) which you have been awarded for another premises not included in this application, under the De Minimus Regulations EC 1407/2013.

Under the European Commission rules, you must retain this guidance for three years and produce it on any request by the UK public authorities or the European Commission. (You may need to keep this guidance longer than three years for other purposes). Furthermore, information on this aid must be supplied to any other public authority or agency asking for information on 'De Minimus' aid for the next three years.

Further information on State Aid law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

How Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief is Calculated:

The council will not be able to calculate the amount of relief that you may be entitled to until we know how many ratepayers will qualify for the scheme.

Example: Business rate increase of £10,000

$$\frac{\pounds 10,000 \times \pounds 2,387,000}{\pounds 4,000,000} = \pounds 5,967.50$$

$$\frac{\text{Amount of Increase} \times \text{Funding available}}{\text{Total increase of eligible businesses}} = \text{Total relief}$$

The application form included with this guidance will need to be returned to us before 31 January 2018