**Business Rates update**

Government has confirmed a package of financial measures to support businesses.

The financial measures include:

* 100% retail relief has been extended to all retail, hospitality and leisure properties for the whole of 2020/21.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance>

* Additional relief for nurseries - 100% relief will be paid to all premises occupied by providers on Ofsted’s Early Years Register and wholly or mainly used for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which are subject to business rates in the year 2020/21.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-nursery-childcare-discount-2020-to-2021-coronavirus-response-local-authority-guidance>

**You do not need to do anything to claim these reliefs. They will be automatically applied to your account and new Business Rate bills will be issued to you.**

In addition, grants will also be available to people liable for Business Rates and using the property as at 11 March 2020.

Please note that there is a limit of one grant per hereditament.

**Small Business Grants Fund**

A grant of £10,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less who are eligible for relief under the Small Business Rates Relief scheme.

Exclusions: Personal use (stables, beach huts, moorings), car parks and spaces, businesses in liquidation or dissolved as at 11 March 2020.

**Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund**

For businesses that are eligible for a discount under the expanded Retail Discount scheme with a rateable value under £51,000. A grant can be claimed for each hereditament, so businesses with multiple outlets would receive more than one grant.

There are 2 levels of grants:

£10,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less

£25,000 for businesses with a rateable value of more than £15,000 but less than £51,000

Exclusions: Personal use (stables, beach huts, moorings), car parks and spaces, businesses in liquidation or dissolved as at 11 March 2020.

**Claiming the grants**

If you are eligible to receive one of the grants **you do not need to do anything as the Business Rates Service will contact you.**

You will need to provide some information that has been requested by Central Government for the grant to be paid.  
  
You can view sample letters sent out to eligible businesses here:

[**Small Business Grants Fund**](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Business-Rates/Small-Business-Grant-letter-SAMPLE.pdf)[**Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund**](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Business-Rates/RHLB-Grant-letter-26-3-20-SAMPLE.pdf)  
   
If you think you are eligible, but haven’t heard from us by 15 April, please email us on [**businessrates@tameside.gov.uk**](mailto:businessrates@tameside.gov.uk)

**Business Rates Recovery**

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for many of our businesses and that the COVID-19 virus is having a significant impact on the economy.

Your Business Rates pays for our essential services that are delivered to all residents in the Council, so it is really important that if your circumstances have not changed that you continue to pay what you should, maintain your direct debit payments, or payment plan, as detailed on your bill. Thank you for your contribution.

The Government has announced assistance to help businesses during this difficult period. The Council is working hard to obtain all the information on how these different reliefs will be applied and to ensure that no-one pays more than they should do in April 2020.

If you are struggling to pay your Business Rates, we wanted to make you aware of the support available and how the Council can help you if you have been affected.

1. We will not submit a claim to banks for any direct debits that are due in April until the 100% Retail Relief has been applied. We will reprofile payment arrangements over the remaining 11 months where appropriate.
2. Get in touch with us. We would encourage anyone who is struggling, to contact us at [businessrates@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@tameside.gov.uk) so that we can ensure that you are getting all of the support and relief that you are entitled to.
3. In some circumstances, we may be able to agree a different payment plan such as the Business Rates due for 2020/21 is split over 9 months, from July 2020 to March 2021, meaning that in some cases you will not have to pay anything until July. Please get in touch to discuss this option.
4. We can also look at your arrears so that we consider everything you owe to us and avoid any extra costs or charges.
5. If you are self-employed and your income reduces, you may be able to claim Universal Credit from the DWP and Council Tax Support from the Council.

[www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)

[www.tameside.gov.uk/ctax/counciltaxsupport](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ctax/counciltaxsupport)

We urge all businesses to pay what they can and seek advice where possible.

We would request that all contact is via email on the following email address [businessrates@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@tameside.gov.uk) . We will come back to you promptly.

**Other support from Government –**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses)

**Important Note: You do not need to employ Rating Agents or other organisations outside of the Council to claim the support that is available. These agents will probably take a percentage of any relief or grant they claim on your behalf. Please be extra careful with what you sign and how you respond to organisations that may contact you offering support.**