



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Non-Domestic Rates  
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**20 March 2020**

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**Chief Finance Officers of English Billing Authorities**

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE BUSINESS RATES SECTION**

Dear Chief Finance Officer

**Business Rates Information Letter (4/2020): Coronavirus Response and Guidance**

This is the fourth business rates information letter to be issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government this year. Previous letters are available on the internet at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/business-rates-information-letters>

or for archived letters:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/businessrates/busratesinformationletters/>.

**This letter covers:**

- **Expanded Retail Discount 2020/21: Coronavirus Response**
- **Nursery Discount 2020/21: Coronavirus Response**
- **Local Authority Response**

## **Expanded Retail Discount 2020/21: Coronavirus Response**

At the Budget the Chancellor announced that the business rates retail discount would be increased to 100% and expanded to cover the leisure and hospitality sectors, as part of the Government's response to the economic impact of the Covid-19.

On the 17 March the Chancellor confirmed that the Government would also be removing the £51,000 rateable value threshold for the expanded retail discount.

Guidance to local authorities on the implementation of the expanded relief has now been published at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance)

Given the importance of this additional support for local businesses, we would encourage authorities to do all you can to ensure that revised bills are issued as quickly as possible to qualifying ratepayers and confirm that they will not need to pay any rates for this year.

Local authorities will be fully compensated for the loss of income associated with granting the expanded relief and the Government will meet the associated new burdens funding to cover the administrative costs of implementation.

## **Nursery Discount 2020/21: Coronavirus Response**

On 18 March, in response to the coronavirus, the Government announced that many childcare providers would pay no business rates in 2020/21.

Guidance to local authorities on the implementation of the nursery relief has now been published at:

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

Local authorities will be fully compensated for the cost of this measure and Government will meet the associated new burdens costs.

## **Local Authority Response**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are grateful to local authorities for all their efforts in supporting their local businesses and communities during this difficult time.