



Department for Levelling Up,  
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**18 November 2022**

**Chief Finance Officers of English Billing Authorities**

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

Dear Chief Finance Officer

**Business Rates Information Letter (6/2022): Autumn Statement Measures**

This is the sixth business rates information letter to be issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 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:**

- **Autumn Statement 2022 business rates measures**
- **Administration and communication of reliefs**
- **New Burdens**
- **Draft business rate lists publication and the business rates calculator**
- **Government response to the Transitional Arrangements consultation**

## **Autumn Statement 2022 business rates measures**

At the Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022, the Chancellor announced that the Government would provide a package of measures to support businesses in England, worth an estimated £13.6 billion over the next five years.

For 2023/24 the Chancellor announced:

- A 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) rate relief scheme increasing the current relief from 50% to 75% in 2023-24, up to £110k per business
- Freezing the business rates multipliers at 49.9p (small business multiplier) and 51.2p (standard multiplier)
- A new Supporting Small Business (SSB) relief scheme to ensure no small business faces a bill increase greater than £50 per month for 2023-24 as a result of losing eligibility for Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief
- An Exchequer funded Transitional Relief scheme to limit bill increases caused by changes in rateable values

These changes will have effect from 1 April 2023.

Local authorities will be expected to use their discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended) to grant the RHL and SSB reliefs in line with the relevant eligibility criteria. Authorities will be compensated for the cost of granting these reliefs via a section 31 grant from Government. No new legislation will be required to deliver these schemes.

The regulations to put in place the new Transitional Relief arrangements for the 2023 revaluation will be laid and published shortly.

### **Administration and communication of reliefs**

The Department will shortly publish guidance for local authorities setting out the eligibility criteria for the 2023/24 RHL and SSB schemes and will work with representatives of local government to support the delivery of the schemes. Whilst authorities are ultimately responsible for decisions on issuing and sending business rates bills, the Department expects councils to ensure that bills issued for the 2023/24 tax year are updated to reflect the changes announced at the Autumn Statement.

### **New Burdens**

The Department recognises that implementing these measures will place some additional burdens on billing authorities and confirms that authorities will be provided with New Burdens funding for additional administration and IT costs.

In accordance with the New Burdens doctrine, the Department will in due course conduct an assessment of the expected reasonable additional costs of the new software and staffing/administration with relevant stakeholders.

## **Draft business rate lists publication and the business rates calculator**

On the 17 November the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) published the draft 2023 business rates list, setting out rateable values for properties in England. The draft list is now available to local authorities to download from the BATrans website.

A rates calculator was also published on gov.uk to help ratepayers estimate what their new business rates bill will be from 1 April 2023. This can be found at: [Find a Business Rates Valuation](#) service on GOV.UK.

The VOA plan to run a series of briefings during January to run through rateable value changes in more detail. The VOA's Local Authority Engagement team will be in touch with local authorities shortly to confirm the dates and the process to sign-up for these events.

## **Government response to the Transitional Arrangements consultation**

The government previously consulted on the Transitional Arrangements for the 2023 revaluation. The consultation ran from 30 May to 25 July 2022 and asked how relief should be balanced against the need to update bills, how the relief should be formatted, whether relief should set limits on how much bills can change, whether relief should vary between properties of different sizes, and how relief should be funded.

The Government has now published the response to the consultation which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-rates-revaluation-2023-consultation-on-the-transitional-arrangements>.