



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Non-Domestic Rates Branch
LGF – Business Rates and
Settlement
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11 September 2013

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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 (7/2013)

This is the seventh business rates information letter to be issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government this year. Previous letters are available on the internet at:

<https://www.gov.uk/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:

- **Business Rates New Build Empty Property Consultation - Summary of Responses and Government Response**
- **Business Rates New Build Empty Property Guidance**

Business Rates New Build Empty Property Consultation - Summary of Responses and Government Response

1. The Government published a technical consultation document *Business Rates New Build Empty Property* on 12 June. This set out the

Government's detailed proposals to exempt all newly built commercial property completed between 1 October 2013 and 30 September 2016 from empty property rates for the first 18 months, up to state aid limits.

The consultation was open for 6 weeks and closed on 26 July 2013. The Government have considered all of the responses received in relation to the consultation. The Government intends to proceed with the proposal as set out in the Business Rates New Build Empty Property Consultation - Summary of Responses and Government Response that was published today and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-rates-new-build-empty-property-technical-consultation>

Business Rates New Build Empty Property Guidance

2. As set out in the Business Rates New Build Empty Property Consultation - Summary of Responses and Government Response, the Government intends to proceed with the proposal to exempt all newly built commercial property completed between 1 October 2013 and 30 September 2016 from empty property rates for the first 18 months, up to state aid limits.
3. The Business Rates New Build Empty Property Guidance is intended to support local authorities in their administration of the relief for new build empty property under the principles of the scheme. This Guidance applies to England only.
4. The Guidance has attempted to clarify aspects of the relief after taking into consideration comments received during the consultation. The Guidance does not replace existing legislation on empty property relief or any other relief.
5. The Guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-new-build-empty-property>