



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Non-Domestic Rates Branch  
LGF – BRV  
Zone 5/D2  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

**2 April 2014**

Email: [ndr@communities.gov.uk](mailto:ndr@communities.gov.uk)

**Chief Finance Officers of English Billing Authorities**

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

Dear Chief Finance Officer

**Business Rates Information Letter (7/2014); Reoccupation Relief and Interest Rate for 2014/ 2015**

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:**

- **Reoccupation Relief Guidance**
- **The Interest Rate for 2014/2015**

**Reoccupation Relief Guidance**

1. The Government announced in the Autumn Statement on 5 December 2013 that it would provide a 50% business rates discount for 18 months for businesses moving into previously empty retail premises between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2016, up to State Aid De Minimis limits.

2. On 1 April 2014 the Government published the Business Rates Reoccupation Relief Guidance document. This document provides guidance to local authorities about the operation and delivery of the reoccupation relief. The Guidance does not replace existing legislation on business rates or any other relief. The Guidance applies to England only.

The Guidance document can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-reoccupation-relief>

3. The Government also issued a press notice which included estimates of businesses benefiting from the retail relief by local billing authority area. The press notice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-shops-and-pubs-could-get-a-third-extra-off-tax-bill>

### **Interest Rate for 2014/2015**

4. The Non-Domestic Rating (Payment of Interest) Regulations 1990 provide that the rate of interest payable on refunds of overpaid rates, arising from alterations to the rating list, should be set for any year at one percentage point below the standard rate at 15 March (or the next business day) in the preceding year.

5. I am writing to confirm that, on 17 March the standard rate was 0.5%, the rate of interest to be applied for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 is 0%.

6. Local authorities should note that the Regulations only allow interest to be paid or credited and not for a charge to be imposed on over payments held.