



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Non-Domestic Rates Team
LGF BRS
SE Quarter - 2nd Floor
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

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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 (7/2017): Better Billing and Digitalisation Measures

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/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/>.

Better Billing and Digitalisation Measures

1. At Budget 2016, the Government made a commitment to modernise and improve the administration of business rates. The 20th December 2016 BRIL (3/2016) subsequently referenced the Government's intention to introduce a mandatory requirement to require all billing authorities to offer electronic billing.

2. Following the decision not to reintroduce the Local Government Finance Bill, this BRIL confirms that the Government no longer intends to introduce a mandatory statutory requirement for e-billing by April 2018. Nevertheless, the Government remains committed to modernising the billing process and encourages those billing authorities which currently don't offer electronic billing to continue to develop this capability.

3. The 20th December BRIL (3/2016) also referenced the Government's commitment to standardise and simplify business rate bills. We are continuing to work with local billing authorities and other stakeholders to develop guidance and a model bill to support this aim.