

Measures to support businesses experiencing increases in costs or financial disruptions

Financial Assistance

Business Rates holiday

Businesses in England in the retail, hospitality and/or leisure sector will have a business rates holiday for the 2020-2021 tax year.

To benefit from this relief, business must be in occupation of properties that are wholly or mainly being used as:

- Shops
- Restaurants & cafes
- drinking establishments
- cinemas and live music venues
- hotels, guesthouses, boarding and lodging premises
- self-catering accommodation

Nursery businesses that pay business rates in England will also receive a business rates holiday for the 2020-21 tax year. To qualify, the business must be a provider on Ofsted's Early Years Register and be in occupation of a property used wholly or mainly for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage. There will be no rateable value limit for this relief for nursery businesses and those that occupy more than one property will be entitled to relief for each of their eligible properties.

Local authorities should automatically issue a revised bill for 2020-21 reflecting the discount to those businesses that received the retail discount in the 2019-2020 tax.

Grants

In addition to the business rates holiday for year 2020-21, Local Authorities will also provide cash grants for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector.

Businesses based in England with a property rateable value at or below £15,000 will receive a £10,000 cash grant, whilst those with a property rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000 will receive a £25,000 cash grant.

Any small business that occupies property in England and pays little or no business rates will be provide a one-off cash grant of £10,000 to help them meet their ongoing business costs. Eligible businesses are those that qualify for small business rate relief (SBBR – for properties with rateable value below £12,000), SBBR tapered relief for properties with rateable value between £12,000 and £15,000 and rural rate relief (RRR).

Businesses should contact their relevant local authority directly for any enquiries on eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs and grants.