

# Business rates support measures

The Government has announced its business rates support measures in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

## Rate Relief

The Government will provide 100% business rates retail relief for the current year 2020/21 for the following occupied premises:

- Shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, and live music venues

This is now extended to include:

- Sports, assembly and leisure premises
- Hotels, guest and boarding houses, holiday accommodation, caravan parks

This means that many Mid Devon businesses will benefit directly from this extended retail relief measure. This is in addition to businesses that already receive 100% small business rate relief (SBRR).

We're working hard to get these applied to your accounts so that your 2020/21 bill reflects the 100% relief provided by the Government.

We'll be contacting businesses directly to confirm this has been applied to their account and we'll do this over the coming weeks. We'll update our website when this is happening.

If it's unclear whether a particular premises is eligible for the relief, we'll contact the rate payer or they can contact us via our new secure [online portal](#).

## Business Grants

The government has announced two cash grant schemes:

### Scheme 1 – Business Support Grant Fund

Businesses that qualified for small business rate relief (SBRR) or rural rate relief on 11 March 2020, including those in receipt of tapered relief, will be eligible for a grant payment of £10,000.

Properties that are occupied for personal use (for e.g. private stables, beach huts, car parking spaces and personal storage) will not qualify, nor will those properties whose liability is calculated using the small business multiplier (this is shown on the business rates bill).

### Scheme 2 – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grant Fund

Properties that would have qualified for the retail discount on 11 March 2020 will either be entitled to:

- £10,000 where the rateable value (RV) of the premises is £15,000 or less or;
- Up to £25,000 where the RV is greater than £15,000 but less than £51,000
- Premises with an RV above £51,000 are not eligible for this grant

Full Government guidance is available at [GOV.UK - COVID-19: support for businesses](#).

We're awaiting detail from Central Government on the administration of these grants. This is expected within the next few days. To be clear, the Government are not expecting payments of these grants to be made until **early April**.

As soon as we have both the guidance and funding we'll implement these payments quickly, knowing how important this will be in supporting your business at this critical time.

## **Coronavirus: Nursery Discount Business Rates 2020/21**

### **Who will qualify ?**

This relief will apply to hereditaments occupied by providers on Ofsted's Early Years Register and wholly or mainly used for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which are subject to business rates in the year 2020/21 only.

The Ofsted register will be checked and or evidence will need to be supplied (see who will qualify).

### **Rules to Qualify**

- wholly or mainly used as per the above paragraph
- no limit on the rateable value
- for the avoidance of doubt, hereditaments which have closed temporarily due to the government's advice on COVID19 should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this relief

### **How much relief will I get?**

- 100% relief after any other qualifying reliefs have been awarded

Official Government guidance can be found at [MHCLG - Nursery Discount 2020/21: Coronavirus Response – Local Authority Guidance](#).