

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For The attention of the Ratepayer

At the Budget on 17th November 2022, the Chancellor announced that eligible ratepayers will receive 75% relief on their business rates bills for the year 2023/24 up to a maximum cash cap of £110,000.

Relief will be provided to eligible occupied retail, hospitality and leisure properties in 2023/24. Your current rates bill includes this discount.

In line with the conditions set by the government, a ratepayer may only claim up to £110,000 of support under the 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme for all of their eligible hereditaments. This cash cap applies at a Group company level (so holding companies and subsidiaries cannot claim up to the cash cap for each company) and also to organisations which, although not a company, have such an interest in a company that they would, if they were a company, result in its being the holding company.

Furthermore, the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme is subject to the Minimal Financial Assistance limits under the Subsidy Control Act. This means no recipient can receive over £315,000 over a 3-year period (consisting of the current financial year and the 2 previous financial years). Extended Retail Discounts granted in 2021/22 do not count towards the limit. Covid business grants received from local government and any other subsidy claimed under the Minimal Financial Assistance or Small Amounts of Financial Assistance limit over the 3-year period should be counted.

Therefore, to claim the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief you must not have exceeded either the £110,000 cash cap for 2023/24 or the Minimal Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over 3 years (including 2023/24). Further details of the cash cap and subsidy control can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-relief-202324-retail-hospitality-and-leisure-scheme-local-authority-guidance>.

Further consideration indicates that you may exceed the Government cap and we have therefore not included the 75% Retail Relief on the enclosed bill for 2023/24.

If you do not exceed the Government cap, please complete Form A: cash cap and exemption threshold declaration on which will be available on the Councils website with effect from 31st March 2023 using the following link www.thurrock.gov.uk/business-rates Upon receipt and validation **the 75% Retail Relief will be applied to your account for the period commencing 1st April 2023, and a revised bill issued.**

Please ensure that the declaration is completed accurately, for avoidance of doubt the Government and Thurrock Council will not tolerate any business falsifying their records or providing false evidence to gain this discount, including claiming support above the cash cap. A ratepayer who falsely applies for any relief or provides false information or makes false representation in order to gain relief may be guilty of fraud under the Fraud Act 2006.

Yours sincerely

Business Rates Manager