

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>.

You do not need to take any further action if you have not received any other 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief for premises other than the one to which this bill relates and you have not received more than the Minimal Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over 3 years (including 2023/24).

If the following applies to you, please complete declaration Form A (accepting the relief and declaring that you comply with the cash cap and exemption threshold) which will be available with effect from the **31st March 2023** on the Councils website using the following link www.thurrock.gov.uk/business-rates

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- you (or if appropriate a company in your Group) have received the 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme support on any other property but to a level below the £110,000 cash cap. You should list the other Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill relates, and
- you (or if appropriate a company in your Group) have not received more than the Minimal Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over 3 years (including 2023/24). If appropriate you should list the other subsidies you have received.

If the follow applies to you, please complete the attached Form B (refusing the relief) and return it to the address above:

- you have exceeded the cash cap on other properties, or
- you have received more than the Minimal Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over 3 years (including 2023/24).

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 or the exemption threshold. 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