

## **FAQs**

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### **Retail Discount**

#### **How much is the retail discount?**

It's 100% of your bill for the current rate year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

#### **Am I eligible for the retail discount?**

Most businesses involved in or related to the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors will qualify regardless of rateable value including:

- shops, restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, pubs cinemas and live music venues
- sport & leisure facilities, club-houses, tourist attractions, betting shops and casinos
- hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation
- other services such as estate agents, employment agencies and tutors

Businesses that may be visible on the high street, but are not covered are:

- financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureaux de change, payday lenders, pawn brokers)
- medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/ financial advisers)
- post office sorting offices

#### **My business is a children's nursery but it isn't mentioned in the categories above, do I still qualify?**

The government has made separate provision to allow for a 100% relief to be applied to children's nurseries that are registered with Ofsted for the provision of early years education

#### **How and when will the discount be applied?**

The discount will be applied directly to your business rates account for 2020/21. We cannot send updated bills until April and are unable to update your online accounts due to technical difficulties but we are writing directly to all businesses that qualify to notify them of the discounts and when they will be applied

### **Will my current direct debit be collected?**

We have stopped all Direct Debit payments for businesses covered by the 100% retail relief.

### **I already receive 80% Charity Relief. Will the retail relief cover the balance if my premises is retail-related?**

Yes, any balance after all charity relief is granted will be covered.

### **Do State Aid Limits apply to Retail Relief?**

State Aid limits have now been suspended by government

## **Small business grant fund**

Businesses will be eligible for payment of £10,000 subject to meeting eligibility criteria set out below.

### **Eligibility**

You are eligible for the grant if:

- your business is based in England
- your property was in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief on 11 March 2020 (including those with a Rateable Value between £12,000 and £15,000 which receive tapered relief)

### **How do I access the fund?**

You do not need to do anything. We will write to you during April if you are eligible for this grant or you can [submit the information](#) needed to process your application now.

### **What will I get if I am not in receipt of Small Business Rate relief?**

Businesses that do not receive Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief are not eligible for the scheme. Please refer to [other business support measures on the government's website](#).

### **What will I get as a business that doesn't pay business rates?**

Businesses that are not ratepayers in the business rates system are not included in this scheme

### **What will I get if rent and rates is paid to my landlord/ property agent?**

Payment of the grant will only be made to the person who according to our records was the ratepayer of the property on 11 March 2020.

### **I have more than one property how will my grant be calculated?**

Eligible recipients will receive one grant per property.

### **Who will receive the payment?**

The fund will only be paid to the person who according to our records was a ratepayer in respect of the property on 11 March 2020.

### **Can I still claim if my company was liquidated or dissolved?**

No. Businesses that have been liquidated or dissolved as of 11 March 2020 are not eligible for this scheme.

### **Are there any other exemptions?**

Yes:

- property occupied for personal use, e.g. private stables, loose boxes, beach huts and moorings
- car parks and parking spaces
- the Government has now confirmed that State Aid limits of 200,000 euros will apply. This will mainly apply to large national companies

## **Cash grants for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses**

### **Who are the grants for?**

The Retail and Hospitality Grant Scheme provides businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a cash grant of up to £25,000 per property.

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

- businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of £15,000 and under will receive a grant of £10,000.
- businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000.

### **Am I eligible for the grant?**

You are eligible for the grant if:

- your business is based in England
- your business is in the retail, hospitality and/or leisure sector

Properties that will benefit from the relief will be occupied and are wholly or mainly being used:

- as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas and live music venues
- for assembly and leisure
- as hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation

**My business is a children's nursery but it isn't mentioned in the categories above, do I still qualify?**

The grants do not apply to children's' nurseries.

**How do I access the fund?**

You do not need to do anything. We will write to you during April if you are eligible for this grant or you can [submit the information](#) needed to process your application now.

**What will I get if I have a rateable value over £51,000?**

Businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000 are not eligible for the scheme.

Please refer to [other business support measures on the government's website](#).

**What will I get as a business that doesn't pay rates?**

Businesses that are not ratepayers in the business rates system are not included in this scheme

**I have more than one property how will my grant be calculated?**

Eligible recipients will receive one grant per property.

**Who will receive the payment?**

The fund will only be paid to the person who according to our records was a ratepayer in respect of the property on 11 March 2020.

**Can I still claim if my company was liquidated or dissolved?**

Businesses that have been liquidated or dissolved as of 11 March 2020 are not eligible for this scheme.

**Are there any other exemptions?**

If you already qualify for a small business grant you will not be eligible for a retail, hospitality & leisure grant.

Other exemptions include:

- Properties occupied for personal use, e.g. private stables, loose boxes, beach huts and moorings
- Car parks and parking spaces
- Properties with a rateable value of over £51,000
- The Government has now confirmed that State Aid limits of 800,000 euros will apply. This will mainly apply to large national companies

Find more [information about cash grants for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses](#).