**Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) Explanatory Notes 2025 to 2026**

* Are collected by local authorities to fund local services.
* Authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally, combined with council tax, locally generated income, and government grants to fund local services.
* More information available at [www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates](http://www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates) or in the business rates area at [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk) or by contacting Nottingham City Council using the contact details on your rates bill.

**Business Rates Instalments**

* Default payment cycle is 10 months.
* Option to pay over 12 months by contacting Nottingham City Council.

**National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier**

* Business rates bills are calculated by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate multiplier.
* There are two multipliers: standard and small business.
* The Government sets multipliers annually, except in the City of London.
* Properties with a rateable value up to £50,999 use the small business multiplier.
* Multipliers are adjusted based on the previous year's CPI inflation figure.
* Business rates can be calculated here: [Estimate your business rates - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/calculate-your-business-rates)

**Rateable Value**

* Set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).
* Represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market.
* Current rating list date: 1st April 2023.
* Access the VOA website: [Find a property - Valuation Office Agency - GOV.UK](https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/business-rates-find/search?_ga=2.121494728.1918549060.1581419778-178328709.1579867036)

**Revaluations**

* Rateable values are reassessed at revaluations.
* Most recent revaluation effective from 1st April 2023.
* Ensures business rates bills reflect current rental values.
* Ratepayers can challenge valuations if believed incorrect. [Check and challenge your business rates valuation: step by step - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-and-challenge-your-business-rates-valuation-step-by-step)
* VOA may alter valuations if circumstances change.

**Duty to Inform**

* Non-Domestic Ratings Act 2023 requires notification of any property changes within 60 days.
* Includes physical changes like extensions or air conditioning installations.
* [4/2023: The Non-Domestic Rating Act 2023 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/42023-the-non-domestic-rating-act-2023/42023-the-non-domestic-rating-act-2023)

**Business Rate Reliefs**

* Ratepayers may be eligible for rate relief based on individual circumstances.
* Information available at [www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates](http://www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates) or from [Exemptions and Reliefs - Nottingham City Council](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-business/business-information-and-support/business-rates/exemptions-and-reliefs/)

**Temporary Reliefs**

* Temporary reliefs may be introduced by the Government, current information available: [www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief)
* Contact local authority for advice on whether you may qualify.

**Small Business Rates Relief**

* Available on one property with a rateable value of less than £15,000 or
* Available on one main property with a rateable value of less than £15,000 where all additional properties have a rateable value below £2,900, and the total rateable value of all your properties is below £20,000
* Small Business Rate Relief on the first property can continue for 12 months from the date a second property is taken.
* Relief is only applicable to occupied properties where the ratepayer is not entitled to mandatory relief as a charity.
* For further information and to apply: [Exemptions and Reliefs - Nottingham City Council](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-business/business-information-and-support/business-rates/exemptions-and-reliefs/)

**Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief**

* Charities and registered clubs are entitled to 80% relief, where the property is occupied by the charity/club and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs. [Business rates relief: Charitable rate relief - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/charitable-rate-relief)
* The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

**Transitional Rate Relief**

* Helps ratepayers facing increases at revaluation.
* Applied automatically to bills. For further information: [www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates](http://www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates).

**Local Discounts and Hardship Relief**

* Local authorities can grant discretionary discounts and hardship relief in specific circumstances: [Hardship relief - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/hardship-relief)

**Unoccupied Property Rating**

* Business rates are payable on unoccupied properties after three months empty exemption (six months for industrial premises).
* Certain properties like vacant listed buildings are exempt until reoccupied.
* For further information: [Business rates relief: Empty property relief - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/empty-property-relief)

**Rating Advisers**

* Ratepayers can represent themselves or hire qualified advisers.
* Advisers should be members of RICS or IRRV.
* Further information can be found here: [How to choose a business rates agent – Valuation Office Agency](https://valuationoffice.blog.gov.uk/2024/04/11/how-to-choose-a-business-rates-agent/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&utm_campaign=agentstandards&utm_term=blog-%20choosing%20an%20agent%20)

**Information Supplied with Demand Notices**

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of the local authority is available online at <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/council-tax/how-council-tax-is-calculated-and-used>.