

Discretionary Relief, Section 47(3) Local Government Finance Act 1988 for Local Newspapers

On 16th March 2016 the Chancellor announced at the Budget that the Government will introduce a £1,500 business rates discount for office space occupied by local newspapers, up to a maximum of one discount per local newspaper title and per hereditament, and up to state aid limits, for 2 years from 1st April 2017.

This is a temporary measure to support local newspapers adapt to technological changes within the industry. The relief is intended to be specifically for local newspapers and will be delivered through local authority discretionary discount powers (under section 47(3)) of the Local Government Finance Act. The relief will be limited by state aid rules.

Eligibility Criteria

The relief will provide:

A £1,500 relief for office space occupied by local newspapers up to a maximum of one discount per local newspaper title and per hereditament, for two years from 1st April 2017.

Local Newspapers

The relief is to be specifically for local newspapers and by that we mean what would be considered to be a traditional local newspaper. The relief will not be available to magazines.

Office Space

The hereditament must be occupied by a local newspaper and wholly or mainly used as office premises for journalists and reports.

Amount of Relief

The amount is limited to a maximum of one discount:

- * per newspaper title (e.g. per newspaper name) and
- * per hereditament

Example

- * A local newspaper with two offices would be able to claim a discount for only one of them
- * An office shared by three separate local newspaper titles would only be eligible for a single discount

The total amount of government-funded relief available for each newspaper title and hereditament for 2017-18 and 2018-19 under this scheme is £1,500. The amount does not vary with rateable value. The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis.

State Aid

The relief available is up to state aid de minimis levels for each business entity.

Awards such as Relief for Local Newspapers are required to comply with the EU law on State Aid. In this case, this involves returning the attached declaration to the Business Rates department, if you have received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other Discretionary Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this letter relates, and confirming that the award of Discretionary Relief does not exceed the €200,000 an undertaking can receive under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013. Further information on State Aid law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

REVENUE & BENEFIT SERVICES
PO Box 238
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 9FP



Tel: (01983) 823920

Email: business.rates@iow.gov.uk

Telephone Hours:
8:00am to 6pm Monday to
Thursday
8:30am to 4:30pm Friday

Discretionary Relief for Local Newspapers

Organisation Details

Name of Ratepayer:

Name of Organisation:

Property address
for which relief is
being claimed:

E-mail

Telephone Number

Please describe the nature of your business and how the property is being used:

Is the property used for any other purpose?

Please provide details:

Does the Newspaper occupy any other Non-Domestic Rated Property? If so please provide details.

State Aid:

Please detail any State Aid you have received during the last three years:

Date Aid Received:

Amount of Aid Received (Euros):

Scheme Title that Offered the Aid:

Declaration

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge the information provided in this form is true and accurate and that I shall report any changes to the Council as to the use of the premises including becoming vacant or re-occupied within 21 days of the change.

I understand that the provision of Discretionary Business Rate Relief may constitute a State Aid within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (The TFEU). I further understand that there are legal limits in respect of the amount of State Aid that can be received. I understand that I have a duty to declare any State Aid that my business has received in the last three years. I understand that if I knowingly or deliberately make a false statement regarding State Aid or the State Aid measure is declared unlawful that action may be taken against the business, including but not limited to action to recover the aid from the business with interest running from the date the aid was given.

I confirm that I am an authorised signatory within the business with full power and authority to make this declaration.

I confirm that by signing this application, I allow the Council to share the information contained with other departments of the Council and with Government agencies and departments. Please note that any misrepresentation or false representation may lead to prosecution.

Signature of applicant:

Name (Capitals)

Position in Organisation and capacity in which signed:
Date:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:



PRIVACY NOTICE

The Isle of Wight Council as data controller, will process your personal information contained in this application in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Information may be shared with other departments within the Council for the recovery of any debts owed to the Council and to identify persons responsible for Business Rates and/or Council Tax & bringing empty/properties back into use.

Please note that the Council may share your information in the absence of consent, for the purpose of crime prevention or detection, in accordance with the law. To read the full Privacy Notice please visit www.iwight.com/Business/Business-Rates "Your Information".