

# STRAT > FORWARD

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Dear BID Board Member and BID Member,

The government has now released further details of the Corona virus response for the Business Rates Discount 2020/21. The guidance is aimed at local authorities who will be administering the scheme. However, we would ask that you give Stratford District Council time to digest and enact the scheme. We are led to believe that the advice on grants and loans for affected businesses will be released on the 20th March.

Essentially, the guidance note states:

For 2020/21 Financial Year a 100% rates discount will apply to:

Properties / occupied hereditaments that are wholly or mainly being used:

- a). as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas and live music venues,
- b). for assembly and leisure; or
- c). as hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation.

(see para 10 in the attached link)

Your business may be made of up of more than one hereditament - which is a physical rated space with a separate NNDR number.

Paragraphs 11 - 15 detail (but not exhaustively) the types of business that would be included in the rates discount.

However, there are a number of business occupiers who are not considered eligible for the rates discounts. These are hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
- Other services (e.g. estate agents, letting agents, employment agencies)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/ financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting offices
- Casinos and gambling clubs

plus hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public.

However, all sectors are eligible for other support measures that will be outlined in further detail.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873622/Expanded\\_Retail\\_Discount\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873622/Expanded_Retail_Discount_Guidance.pdf)

As soon as we have further information we will circulate it to all BID members.

Regards

Joseph Baconnet | BID Director