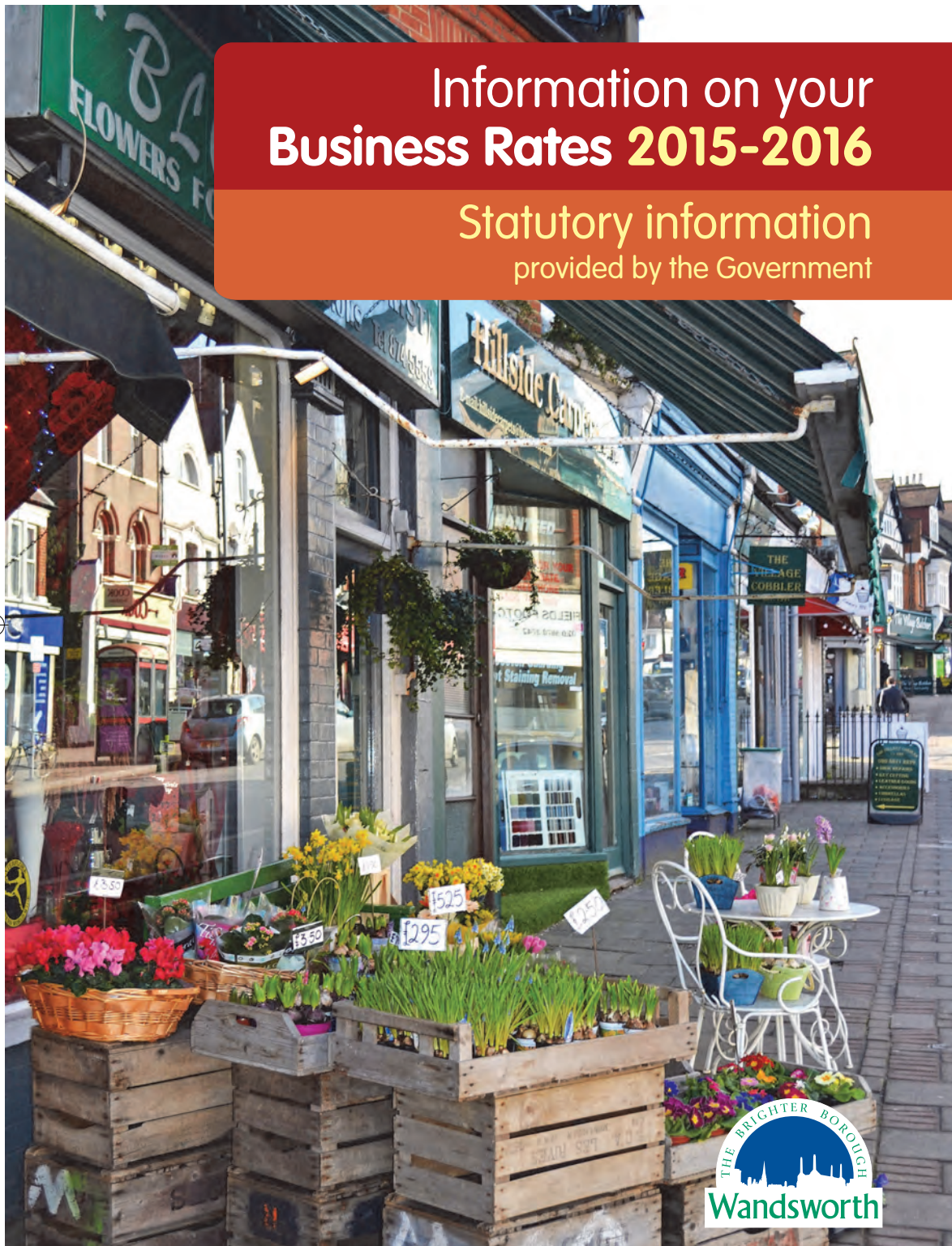


# Information on your Business Rates **2015-2016**

Statutory information  
provided by the Government



## Why we need Business Rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by Wandsworth Council are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1st April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally. This provides a direct financial incentive for authorities to work with local businesses to create a favourable local environment for growth since authorities will benefit from growth in business rates revenues. The money, together with revenue from council tax payers, revenue support grant provided by the Government and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by Wandsworth Council. Further information about the business rates system, including transitional and other reliefs, may be obtained at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## Rateable Value

Apart from properties that are exempt from business rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the valuation officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They draw up and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/valuation-office-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/valuation-office-agency). The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of this bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date. For the revaluation that came into effect on 1st April 2010, this date was set as 1st April 2008.

The valuation officer may alter the value if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can appeal against the value shown in the list if they believe it is wrong. The Government has announced there will be limits on the backdating of changes to rating

assessments with effect from 1st April 2015. If the Valuation Office Agency receive your appeal on or after 1st April 2015 then the earliest they can back date any changes is that date. Wandsworth Council can only back-date any business rates rebate to that same date. You will continue to have your full legal rights to appeal your rating assessment.

The Valuation Office Agency will continue to fulfil their legal obligations to alter rating assessments if new information comes to light indicating the valuation is inaccurate. Any alterations they make on or after 1st April 2016 can only be backdated to 1st April 2015. Further information about the grounds on which appeals may be made and the process for doing so can be found on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website or obtained from your local valuation office at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk).

## National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier

We work out your business rates bill by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate multiplier. There are two multipliers: the standard non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. The former is higher to pay for small business rate relief. Except in the City of London where special arrangements apply, the Government sets the multipliers for each financial year for the whole of England according to formulae set by legislation.

Between revaluations, the multipliers generally change each year in line with the Retail Price Index in September of the previous year and to take account of the cost of small business rate relief. The calculation of the multipliers has taken account of the Government's decision in the Autumn Statement 2014 to cap the inflation increase to 2% in 2015-16. The current multipliers are shown on the front of this bill.

## Business Rates Instalments

Payment of business rate bills is automatically set on a 10-monthly cycle. However, the Government has put in place regulations that allow businesses to require their local authority to enable payments to be made through 12 monthly instalments.

If you wish to take up this offer, you should contact Wandsworth Council as soon as possible on **(020) 7378 5941**, or visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates) or email [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Revaluation 2017

All rateable values are reassessed at a general revaluation to ensure bills paid by any one ratepayer reflect changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. This helps maintain fairness in the rating system by updating valuations in line with changes in the market. The current rating list is based on the 2010 revaluation. The Government has confirmed that the next revaluation will take place in 2017 based on rental values at 1st April 2015. More information on revaluation 2017 can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/valuation-office-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/valuation-office-agency).

In the year of revaluation the multipliers are rebased to account for overall changes to total rateable value and to ensure that the revaluation does not raise extra money for Government. Similarly, the change in the revaluation date to 2017 has no effect on the total amount of revenue raised from business rates.

## Unoccupied Property Rating

Business rates will not be payable in the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial properties. After this period rates are payable in full unless the unoccupied property rate has been reduced by the Government by order. In most cases the unoccupied property rate is zero for properties owned by charities and community amateur sports clubs. In addition, there are a number of exemptions from the unoccupied property rate. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from Wandsworth Council on **(020) 7378 5941**, visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates) or email [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk). If the unoccupied property rate for the financial year has been reduced by order, it will be shown on the front of this bill.

The Government has introduced a temporary measure for unoccupied new builds from October 2013. Unoccupied new builds will be exempt from unoccupied property rates for up to 18 months (up to state aid limits) where the property comes on to the list between 1st October 2013 and 30th September 2016. The 18 month period includes the initial 3 or 6 month exemption and so properties may, if unoccupied, be exempt from non-domestic rates for up to an extra 15 or 12 months.

## Partly Occupied Property Relief

A ratepayer is liable for the full non-domestic rate whether a property is wholly occupied or only partly occupied. Where a property is partly occupied for a short time, the local authority has discretion in certain cases to award relief in respect of the unoccupied part. Full details can be obtained from Wandsworth Council on **(020) 7378 5941**, visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates) or email [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Small Business Rate Relief

Ratepayers who are not entitled to another mandatory relief or are liable for unoccupied property rates and occupy a property with a rateable value which does not exceed £17,999 outside London or £25,499 in London will have their bill calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier, rather than the national non-domestic rating multiplier.

In addition, generally, if the sole or main property is shown on the rating list with a rateable value which does not exceed £12,000, the ratepayer will receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for this property of up to a maximum of 50% for a property with a rateable value of not more than £6,000. The Government has announced, in the Autumn Statement 2014, that the doubling of the usual level of relief - to a maximum of 100% - will continue for a further year, until 31st March 2016.

Generally, this percentage reduction (relief) is only available to ratepayers who occupy either-

- (a) one property, or
- (b) one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed £2,599.

The rateable value of the property mentioned in (a), or the aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must not exceed £17,999 outside London or £25,499 in London on each day for which relief is being sought. If the rateable value, or aggregate rateable value, increases above those levels, relief will cease from the day of the increase.

The Government has introduced additional support to small businesses. For those businesses that take on an additional property which would normally have meant the loss of small business rate relief, the Government has confirmed that they will be allowed to keep

that relief for a period of 12 months.

An application for Small Business Rate Relief is required. Where a ratepayer meets the eligibility criteria and has not received the relief they should contact their local authority. Provided the ratepayer continues to satisfy the conditions for relief which apply at the relevant time as regards the property and the ratepayer, they will automatically continue to receive relief in each new valuation period.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by a ratepayer who is in receipt of relief (other changes will be picked up by the local authority).

The changes which should be notified are:-

- (a) the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, and
- (b) an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

## Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief

Charities and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the 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).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining balance. Full details can be obtained by contacting Wandsworth Council on **(020) 7378 5941**, visit **[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates)** or email **[brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)**

## Retail Discounts

The Government is giving funding to local authorities so that they can provide a discount worth up to £1,000 in 2014-15 and up to £1,500 in 2015-16 - to retail premises with a rateable value of up to £50,000. This will provide support to premises including pubs, cafes, restaurants and shops.

The Government is also giving funding to local authorities so that they can provide a 50% discount for 18 months for those businesses that move into retail premises that have been empty for a year or more. This is available for businesses which move into empty premises between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2016.

Full details can be obtained from Wandsworth Council on **(020) 7378 5941**, visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates) or email [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Local Discounts

Wandsworth Council has a general power to grant discretionary local discounts. Full details can be obtained from Wandsworth Council on **(020) 7378 5941**, visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates) or email [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## State Aid

The award of such discounts is considered likely to amount to state aid. However it will be state aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013. The De Minimis Regulations allow an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 'de minimis' aid over a rolling three year period. If you are receiving, or have received, any 'de minimis' aid granted during the current or two previous financial years (from any source), you should inform the local authority immediately with details of the aid received.

## Hardship Relief

Wandsworth Council has discretion to give hardship relief in specific circumstances. Full details can be obtained from Wandsworth Council on **(020) 7378 5941**, visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates) or email [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Rating advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. Appeals against rateable values can be made free of charge. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS - website [www.rics.org](http://www.rics.org)) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV - website [www.irrv.org.uk](http://www.irrv.org.uk)) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct. Before you employ a rating adviser, you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

## Business Rates Supplements

The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 enables levying authorities - county councils, unitary district councils and, in London, the Greater London Authority - to levy a supplement on the business rate to support additional projects aimed at economic development of the area.

Business Rate Supplements (BRS) are not applicable to properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or below, and authorities have discretion to increase that threshold. The total maximum BRS which may be levied by a levying authority is 2p per pound of rateable value. Levying authorities have the power to apply such reliefs to the BRS as they think appropriate and in such cases must include an explanation of the rules for the application of those reliefs in the final prospectus for the BRS.

The business rate supplement applicable in London is being levied by the Greater London Authority in relation to the Crossrail project. Further information may be found in the Crossrail BRS final prospectus which is available at [www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs](http://www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs)

## Information Supplied with Demand Notices

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of Wandsworth Council is available at

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates)

A hard copy is available on request by writing to:

Business Rates Service,  
PO Box 65993,  
Town Hall,  
Wandsworth High Street,  
London SW18 9LB

or call **(020) 7378 5941**.

# Crossrail Business Rate Supplement

## What is Crossrail and How Will It Benefit Your Business?

Crossrail will connect the outer suburbs and Heathrow to the West End, City and Canary Wharf. It is pivotal to the future of London's economy and the increased earnings - from new jobs and quicker journeys - will benefit businesses across London.

It is the single largest investment in London's infrastructure for decades, employing up to 14,000 people at the peak of construction. Crossrail services are due commence on the Shenfield to Liverpool Street section in 2017 and through central London in 2018 followed by a phased introduction of services on the rest of the route.

To find out more visit [www.crossrail.co.uk](http://www.crossrail.co.uk), call the Crossrail 24 hr Helpdesk on **0345 602 3813**, email [helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk).

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Developments in the Construction and Financing of Crossrail

The Mayor of London agreed a settlement with the Government in October 2010 for the Crossrail route and secured investment for the upgrade of the Tube. Crossrail is now under construction at its key sites across London.

In April 2012 the Mayor introduced a community infrastructure planning (CIL) levy on new developments in London to finance Crossrail. This is paid for by the developer. Find at more at [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk).

## How Will London's Businesses Help to Fund Crossrail?

The Crossrail BRS is being used to finance up to £3.5bn worth of GLA borrowing and the repayment of this sum after Crossrail is completed. A further £0.6bn of BRS revenues have been used to finance the construction works directly. The Crossrail BRS will need to be levied until the GLA's borrowing is repaid which is expected to be some time in the 2030s.

## Does My Business Have to Pay the Crossrail BRS?

Your rates bill makes clear if you are liable to pay the BRS. The Crossrail BRS is applied only to assessments (for example business and other non-domestic premises) on the local rating lists of the 32 London boroughs and City of London Corporation with a rateable value of more than £55,000. Over 80 per cent of non domestic properties in London are therefore exempt.

## How Much Do I Pay if My Property's Rateable Value is Above £55,000?

The Crossrail BRS multiplier for 2015-16 is 2p per pound of rateable value. Reliefs for the Crossrail BRS will apply on the same basis and at the same percentage rate as for your National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) bill, although no transitional relief is provided for the BRS.

## Keeping You Up to Date

We will provide an annual update for ratepayers over the lifetime of the BRS.

## Contact for further information

Phone: **(020) 7983 4100**

Email: [crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk](mailto:crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk)

[www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs](http://www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs)

Finance, GLA, City Hall, London SE1 2AA

If you have questions about this booklet  
or if you need it in an alternative format  
(e.g. large print) please call (020) 7378 5941.

Email: [brates@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:brates@wandsworth.gov.uk)

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/businessrates)

