

Tower Hamlets Local Discretionary Relief Scheme (LDRS) 2017

1. The scheme will be open to ratepayers that have a liability to pay the business rates within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH).
2. The rateable value of the property entered in the Local Rating List must be below £200,000 therefore in order to qualify, the relief will be applied to qualifying properties with a rateable value of £199,999 or less.
3. Ratepayers that are in receipt of the Supporting Small Business Rate relief 2017 (SSB) will not be eligible to receive relief under the LDRS 2017.
4. The relief will not apply to organisations that have three or more properties that operate within or outside of LBTH.
5. The property must have been entered into the 2010 Local Rating list as at the 31st March 2017 and also in the 2017 Local Rating list as at the 1st April 2017.
6. The property must have been occupied since the 31st March 2017 and remain occupied in order to qualify for the relief. Once a property becomes unoccupied the relief will be cease with effect from the date that the property became unoccupied.
7. The relief will be calculated after any other allowable reductions to the rate account have been applied.
8. In cases where there has been an amendment in rateable value in relation to the 2010 or 2017 Local Rating lists any subsequent adjustment will only apply where the amendment to the Rateable Value has resulted in a decrease of the amount of relief awarded. This means that the overall amount of relief previously awarded cannot exceed the original award under any circumstances.
9. Organisations will not be required to complete an application form as the relief will be awarded automatically by the Council based on the qualifying criteria established in the scheme.
10. Ratepayers that do not receive an automatic award but believe that they are eligible to receive the relief can ask for a review of the decision. The council will consider the full circumstances of the organisation and if it appears that the organisation is eligible the relief will be applied, subject to the condition in paragraph 11 below.
11. In cases where there is a retrospective amendment to the rateable value or a review is requested the relief will only be applied to the financial year in which the actual application is made. An award cannot be retrospectively applied to previous financial years under any circumstances.

12. The relief is based on a percentage of the actual amount of the increase as at the 1st April 2017. The increase is calculated by comparing the charge amount less any reliefs or exemptions for 2016-2017 against the same calculation for 2017-2018.
13. Any property that is used for the following purposes will be automatically excluded from receiving the relief:
 - a. Payday Lenders
 - b. Betting Shops
 - c. Public Sector & Local Government Buildings
 - d. Housing Association Properties
 - e. Unoccupied Properties
14. Eligibility for the relief is determined based on a fixed list which has been extracted from the Council's Revenues system as at the 1st April 2017.
15. The scheme is fixed for a four year period based on the original list mentioned in paragraph 14. The amount of relief will be based on the percentage rates published on the Council's website. It should be noted that the percentage rate is variable and may be subject to change, although the qualifying criteria will remain constant throughout the scheme.
16. The relief will be transferrable in the event that the recipient vacates the property and the new occupier fulfils the eligibility criteria to receive the relief.
17. The award of the relief will be subject to state aid rules and each recipient must inform the Council if awarding the local relief has the effect of exceeding the €200,000 De Minimis State Aid limit.