

Rate Relief Schemes

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Land and Property Services



Land & Property Services
Seirbhísí Talún agus Maoine

Rate Relief Schemes

Actions to take now

Date: November 2023

LPS can assist ratepayers and businesses experiencing financial difficulties

- Reshaping existing payment plan
- Agreeing new payment arrangements
- Offering alternative payment options to suit individual circumstances

It is essential that ratepayers impacted by the flooding contact LPS as soon as possible to discuss options that best suit their circumstances



Hardship Rate Relief Scheme

For Businesses impacted by an exceptional circumstance

Date: November 2023

How do I qualify?

Your business must have suffered an exceptional circumstance which will usually be:

- Unforeseen
- Unavoidable
- Beyond normal business risk
- External to the ratepayer

What supporting evidence do I need to apply?

- Copies of audited accounts /daily receipts summaries
- Business bank statements
- Details of income and expenditure (if not included in audited accounts)
- An outline recovery plan

How do I find out more information or apply for Hardship Rate Relief?

- Download an application form from the NI Business Info website (<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/hardship-relief>)
- Contact LPS on **0300 200 7801**
- Email: hardshipraterelief@finance-ni.gov.uk

What Happens Next?

- LPS will acknowledge receipt of your application
- LPS may seek or gather supporting evidence from other organisations e.g. Councils
- You should continue to pay rates while your application is being assessed

What support will I get if my application is successful?

- Up to 100% rate relief may be awarded for the length of time that it takes a business or organisation to recover from the exceptional circumstances.
- Hardship Relief is intended to be temporary. The recovery plan should give some indication as to the expected length of time for the business to recover.
- You need to notify LPS of any change in your circumstances
- LPS will review applications and may contact you for updated information



Non Domestic Vacant Rating (and Exclusions)

Rate Relief for Vacant Commercial Properties

Date: November 2023

How do I qualify?

You must be liable for the payment of rates on the property and the property must be:

- Unoccupied
- Unfurnished
- Not used for storage

What supporting evidence do I need to apply?

- Internal and External photographs of the vacant property
- Date(s) the property became unoccupied
- Date(s) the property became unfurnished
- Date(s) the property was no longer used for storage

How do I find out more information or apply for NDVR?

- Download an application form from the nibusinessinfo website (<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/non-domestic-vacant-rating>)
- Contact LPS on **0300 200 7801**
- Email: rating@finance-ni.gov.uk

What Happens Next?

- LPS will assess your application
- LPS may seek or gather supporting evidence from other organisations e.g. Councils
- You should continue to pay rates while your application is being assessed

What support will I get if my application is successful?

- Up to 100% rate relief can be awarded for the first three months and 50% relief applied thereafter.
- Those entitled to an exclusion can receive 100% rate relief until the property is re-occupied.
- You need to notify LPS of any change in your circumstances
- LPS will review applications and may contact you for updated information



Rate Relief for Households

Assistance for homeowners impacted by flooding

Date: November 2023

How do I qualify?

Rate Exclusions require the owner to apply and provide supporting evidence:

- Receipt of compensation from the local Council because your home was flooded
- Evidence that no-one has continuously lived in the property for at least four weeks
- Your property was your main home before the flooding
- Receipt of compensation from local Council

What supporting evidence do I need to apply?

How do I find out more information or apply for an REH Exclusion?

- Download an application form from the nidirect website (<https://www.indirect.gov.uk/articles/rating-empty-homes>)
- Contact LPS on **0300 200 7801**
- Email: applicationbasedraterelief@finance-ni.gov.uk

What Happens Next?

- LPS will assess your application and may need to inspect your property
- LPS may seek or gather supporting evidence from other organisations e.g. Councils
- You should continue to pay rates while your application is being assessed

What support will I get if my application is successful?

- You could get 100% rate relief for up to six months.



Contact Us

Land & Property Services
Lanyon Plaza
7 Lanyon Place
Town Parks
Belfast. BT1 3LP

Telephone: 0300 200 7801 (calls charged at local rate)
Telephone: +44 28 9049 5794 (if outside NI)
Text Relay: 18001 0300 200 7801

Hardship Rate Relief

Download an application form from the nibusinessinfo website

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/hardship-relief>

Non-Domestic Vacant Rating

Download an application form from the nibusinessinfo website

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/non-domestic-vacant-rating>

Rating of Empty Homes

Download an application form from nidirect website

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/rating-empty-homes>

