

## **Circular Fin 14/2021**

### **Extension of Commercial Rates Waiver to Third Quarter 2021**

An extension of the above waiver for a further period of three months i.e. Q3 2021, has been agreed by Government. To continue to support both the local government sector and the ratepayers impacted, a further €160m has been allocated to fund the cost of a three-month extension of the commercial rates waiver for eligible businesses impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

The extended waiver will again take the form of a credit in lieu of rates. The terms and conditions relating to eligibility and administration of the extended waiver remain the same as those outlined in Circulars Fin 01/2021 and Fin 05/2021. A 100% waiver will be applied to eligible properties, for a further three-month period to end September 2021.

#### **General Terms and Conditions**

A three month extension of the Q1 2021 waiver will apply to eligible businesses and will take the form of a credit in lieu of rates. The value of the waiver is the equivalent value of 25% of the annual rate bill for 2021. The waiver will apply to businesses closed by, or badly impacted by, Level 5 restrictions, subject to a maximum value of €160m.

In terms of funding, implementation and operation, there is no overlap between the 2021 rates waiver scheme, Q1 to Q3, and the 2020 rates waiver scheme detailed in Circulars Fin 11 and 16 of 2020.

#### **Administration of Credit in Lieu of Commercial Rates by Local Authorities**

Credits in lieu of commercial rates applied to ratepayer accounts under this Circular shall be applied as credit on the rate accounts for 2021.

#### **Determination of eligibility for rate accounts in excluded categories listed in Appendix D of Circular Fin 01/2021**

If a rate account in an excluded category, listed in Appendix D of Circular Fin 1/2021, has been deemed to demonstrate serious impact from COVID-19 restrictions in accordance with Circulars Fin 01/2021 or 05/2021, there is no requirement to re-assess eligibility for the three month extension of the waiver in Q3 2021.

However, if a rate account in an excluded category, listed in Appendix D of Circular Fin 1/2021, has not been deemed to demonstrate serious impact in either Q1 or Q2, from COVID-19 restrictions in accordance with Circulars Fin 01/2021 or Fin 05/2021, such a rate account should be permitted to demonstrate serious impact in Q3, and if deemed eligible in Q3, should be recommended for the waiver in Q3 only.

Please refer to the FAQ document, and additional FAQs accompanying Circular Fin 1/2020 for further information.