

Circular Fin 20/2021

Targeted Commercial Rates Waiver Final Quarter 2021

On 12 October a targeted commercial rates waiver to support certain sectors was agreed by Government, for the final quarter of 2021. To continue to support both the local government sector and the ratepayers impacted, a further €62.3m has been allocated to fund the cost of the targeted commercial rates waiver for eligible businesses. A waiver of commercial rates will apply to specified businesses in the final quarter of 2021. This 3 month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate, standalone waiver scheme.

General Terms and Conditions

A three month waiver (October to December) 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 occupying eligible property categories subject to a maximum value of €62.3 m.

In terms of funding, implementation and operation, there is no overlap between the targeted Q4 2021 rates waiver scheme outlined in this circular and the rates waiver scheme detailed in Circulars Fin 01, 05 and 14 of 2021.

Eligible Categories

The broad categories of businesses the credit in lieu of rates applies to are as follows:

- Hospitality, including restaurants and cafes;
- Leisure;
- Miscellaneous entertainment;
- Certain tourism related categories; and
- Airports.

A detailed list of eligible property categories is included in Appendix B.

The credit in lieu of rates does **not** apply to Vacant Properties (all vacant property as is ordinarily understood for rates is excluded from the waiver, without exception).

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.

An application process is not required. Local authorities should automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for a three-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category.

Business Improvement District (BID) Levy

While the levying and collection of BID contribution levies is facilitated by local authorities through rates collection powers, BID contribution levies are not rates. The relevant business community, rather than central or local government, is the sponsoring party for BID schemes. Accordingly, BID contribution levies are not entitled to receive a credit in lieu of commercial rates under this circular.