

WALES RETAIL RATE RELIEF SCHEME 2014/15

Are you eligible for up to £1000 off your rates bill?

The Welsh Government has announced that it will provide rate relief up to £1000 to all **occupied** retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less during 2014/15. To qualify for relief, the properties must be **used wholly or mainly as retail premises i.e. shops, restaurants, cafes, and drinking establishments.** It is estimated that in Monmouthshire more than 900 businesses could qualify for this relief where the premises are being used for one or more of the following purposes:

- (1) **For the sale of goods to visiting members of the public**
- (2) **For the provision of services to visiting members of the public**
- (3) **For the sale of food and/or drink to visiting members of the public**

Many businesses will benefit from this new Welsh Government initiative, (including those who already receive small business rate relief). However, certain businesses have been excluded by Welsh Government and these are listed in the guidance notes for your information.

The amount of relief that may be given is based on net liability i.e. the amount payable for the 2014/15 financial year after deducting any other rate relief to which you are already entitled, such as, small business rate relief or charitable rate relief. The maximum allowance under this scheme is £1000.

Businesses that we believe meet the necessary criteria and therefore entitled to this relief have already received the relevant application form. Entitlement is based on use rather than occupation so it is necessary to check the guidance note to ensure that you are not on the list of excluded businesses.

If you have not received an application form and believe you may be entitled please contact the Revenue Section.

Tel: 01633 644630

Email: counciltax@monmouthshire.gov.uk

or send by post to:

**Monmouthshire County Council
Revenue Section
P.O Box 106
Caldicot
NP26 9AN**

Wales Retail Relief Guidance

Businesses eligible for relief

Premises used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public.

Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off license, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets etc.)

Opticians,

Pharmacies

Post Offices

Furnishing shops/ display rooms (such as carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)

Car/caravan show rooms

Second hand car lots

Markets

Petrol stations

Garden centres

Art galleries (where art is for sale or hire)

Charity shops (but not other premises occupied by charities for non retail use)

Premises being used for the sale of food and/or drink to visiting members of the public

Restaurants

Drive through/drive in restaurants

Takeaways

Sandwich shops

Cafes

Coffee shops

Pubs

Wine bars

Premises used for the provision of services to visiting members of the public

Hair and beauty services

Shoe repairs/key cutting

Travel agents

Ticket offices e.g. for theatre

Dry Cleaners

Launderettes

PC/TV/ domestic appliance repair

Funeral directors

Photo processing

DVD/ video rentals

Tool hire

Car hire

Cinemas

Estate and letting agents

Businesses NOT eligible for the relief

Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureau de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors,)
Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/ financial advisors, tutors)
Post office sorting offices
Tourism accommodation such as B & B's, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
Sports Clubs
Children's play centres
Day nurseries
Outdoor activity centres
Gyms
Kennels and catteries
Show homes and marketing suites
Employment agencies

Properties that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public will also NOT be eligible.

These lists are meant as a guide only. If you need further advice or information about this relief and whether you might qualify, please contact the Revenue Section. Please quote your rate account reference number on any communication.

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