

You may be entitled to Local Newspaper Discount worth up to £1,500

In the March 2016 Budget the Government announced its intention for local authorities to use discretionary powers to grant a discount for office space occupied by local newspapers for use by journalists and reporters.

The discount is available up to a maximum of one discount per local newspaper title and per hereditament, and up to State Aid limits, for 2 years from 1 April 2017.

The relief will apply for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years.

We have automatically granted relief to properties which we were able to identify and details of the relief will be shown on your bill if this applies to you.

Awarding of retail relief is classed as State Aid and the Council must therefore comply with the European Commission State Aid legislation. The application form requires your organisation's confirmation that the granting of Retail relief will not result in your organisation exceeding the State Aid threshold of €200,000 over the last 3 years (De Minimus Regulations EC 1407/2013).

Further information on State Aid law can be found at; <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>.

How do I apply for Local Newspaper Discount if I have not been awarded it automatically?

If you have not been awarded the discount and believe you meet the criteria, please complete the enclosed application form. The completed form should be returned by post or email to:

Email: businessrates@walthamforest.gov.uk

Post: Business Rates Department, Revenues Service, PO Box 856, London, E17 9PN

Application for Local Newspaper Discount 2017/18 – 2018/19

1. Account Details for which relief is being claimed

Account Reference

Ratepayer

2. Property for which relief is being claimed

Property Address

3. Nature of business (confirm the type of business carried out at the premises)

4. Trading name of Business

5. Declaration

I confirm that:

- 1) The above property is wholly or mainly used for the following purpose(s):

.....

- 2) I believe that the occupation meets the qualifying criteria.

YES / NO / NOT SURE*

Note: If you have answered “not sure”, the Council will arrange a visit to your property to clarify the position.

3) The granting of Retail relief will not result in our organisation exceeding the State Aid threshold of €200,000 during the last 3 years (De Minimus Regulations EC) 1407/2013).

YES/ NO*

*Please delete as appropriate

Should your circumstances change in the future so that your organisation no longer meets the qualifying criteria, you must notify us immediately so that the Local Newspaper Discount can be removed from the date the change occurred.

By signing the application form you agree that, to the best of your knowledge, the information contained on the form is complete and is not false. Wilfully making a false statement on the application form is an offence and may result in us taking action legal against you.

Name

Signature

Position in Organisation

Telephone

Email

Date

Note: Under European Commission rules you must retain a copy of this application form for three years and produce it on any request by the UK public authorities or the European Commission (you may need to keep this letter longer than three years for other purposes). Furthermore, information on State Aid must be supplied to any other public authority or agency asking for information on 'De Minimus' aid within the next three years.