

Consultation response form

Delivering a Tax Cut for Small Businesses: a New Small Business Rates Relief Scheme for Wales

Please return this form to reach the Welsh Government no later than 13 October 2017

If you have any questions, please email:

Local Taxation Policy Branch: LGF1Consultations@gov.wales

Consultation Delivering a Tax Cut for Small Businesses: a New Small Business Rates Relief Scheme for Wales	
Date	18.9.2017
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Consultation questions

Q1. The Welsh Government is interested in your views about the current and future funding of SBRR in Wales, including how the multiplier operates.

Comments:

The Forum retailers feel that the current rating system is unfair and does not reflect market conditions and is particularly hard on Retail Premises.

Q2. Do you agree that a limit should be introduced on the amount of relief a business occupying multiple small properties in Wales can receive? If so, to what extent do you think this should be restricted?

Comments:

Yes. The suggested limit is 5 retail units.

Q3. What are the associated administrative and technical implications of the Welsh Government's preferred approach which need to be considered?

Comments:

Not qualified to comment.

Q4. Comments are invited about the effects (whether positive or adverse) such a limit could have on ratepayers affected or excluded from this relief.

Comments:

Any reliefs should be available to all including Council Premises (except where they are used for commercial activity). Charity Shops should be treated the same as any other business and not be given any special relief. Most Charity Shops today are run as a business and should be treated as such.

Q5. Are there any types of business you feel should be excluded from the new scheme and, if so, why?

Comments:

All small business should be able to take advantage of the scheme.

Q6. What are the administrative implications of introducing further exceptions?

Comments:

Not applicable.

Q7. If the Welsh Government released resources from the current scheme to provide additional support to eligible small businesses under the new scheme, based on the options described in paragraph 4.26, how should these resources be reinvested to support small businesses more effectively?

Comments:

The biggest issue to retailers is car parking charges. Any funds made available should be used to provide free parking to aid retailing and protect town centres. For example planning consents are granted to supermarkets and retail parks with free parking whilst the town centre shops have only car parks which are charged for creating an unfair playing field.

Q8. Are there any administrative or technical implications which need to be considered in changing the current thresholds for relief?

Comments:

Not in our view.

Q9. What are the potential administrative and technical implications of introducing a new permanent scheme and its interaction with transitional relief?

Comments:

Not qualified to comment.

Q10. We are seeking views on removing the enhanced relief for retail premises with a rateable value between £10,501 and £11,000.

Comments:

There is no case to remove such relief.

Q11. Are there any administrative or technical implications which need to be considered in changing the relief for the retail sector?

Comments:

No

Q12. We are seeking views on whether the childcare sector should be provided with additional relief, over and above that provided under the current SBRR scheme in order to support the delivery of the 30-hour childcare commitment?

Comments:

All business should receive the same reliefs, there is no case for any special cases.

Q13. If additional relief were provided to the childcare sector, considering the options described in 4.39, how should this be delivered via the SBRR scheme?

Comments:

Not applicable.

Q14. Are there any administrative or technical implications which need to be considered in providing additional relief to this sector?

Comments:

Not in the view of the Forum.

Q15: We are seeking views on the possible introduction of time-limited support for certain ratepayers which is gradually withdrawn. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such an approach?

Comments:

It is right and proper to phase any reductions in allowances.

Q16. The Welsh Government is seeking general views on providing support to businesses that support, or are working towards supporting, wider Welsh Government objectives and invites proposals for developing the scheme in future years.

Comments:

This subject has nothing to do with this consultation.

Q17. The Welsh Government would like to know your views on the effects these proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh; and
- ii) on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Comments:

This subject has nothing to do with this consultation.

Q18. Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language; and
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

This subject has nothing to do with this consultation.

Q19. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

Please enter here:

No other comments to add.