

NON DOMESTIC RATES FRESH START RELIEF

The Scottish Government introduced Fresh Start Relief from 1st April 2013.

Fresh Start Relief offers 50% for a period of 12 months and may be applied if all of the following circumstances are met for the property.

- The property has previously been in receipt of empty property relief for a continuous period of at least 12 months; and
- The property has a rateable value of under £65,000; and
- When last occupied, the property was used as a shop, office, hotel, pub or restaurant (as defined in the Regulations) OR the property is intended to be used as a shop, office, hotel, pub or restaurant.

Please be aware that for the period that Fresh Start Relief is awarded, no other relief can apply.

The rateable value of your property can be found using the "search for a rateable value" facility at - www.saa.gov.uk

STATE AID:

Applicants should note that the **FRESH START** relief for which they are applying is granted as **de minimis** aid for **State aid purposes**. There is currently a ceiling of 200,000 Euros (around £175,000, although exact amount will fluctuate) of de minimis aid that can be granted over a three year period. **If you consider that you have already received in excess of, or close to, this sum over the past three years, please attach details with this application form**

HOW TO APPLY

This application form should be completed by the ratepayer claiming rates relief in terms of this scheme. The form should be completed in **BLACK INK**. All sections of the form should be completed. Inverclyde Council may request additional information to substantiate information provided and to validate any claim for relief.

To qualify, the following conditions must be met:

- The ratepayer must be in rateable occupation;
- The property has previously been in receipt of empty property relief for a continuous period of at least 12 months; and
- The property has a rateable value of under £65,000; and
- When last occupied, the property was used as a shop, office, hotel, pub or restaurant (as defined in the Regulations) OR the property is intended to be used as a shop, office, hotel, pub or restaurant.
- All requests for relief from Inverclyde Council must be made on this application form;

SECTION 1 – RATEPAYER DETAILS

Ratepayers Name

Correspondence Address

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SECTION 2 – PREMISES FOR WHICH RELIEF IS SOUGHT

Premises Address

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Reference Number

SECTION 2 (Continued)

Rateable Value

Date Property Became Empty: Date Re-occupied:

Last Use of Property:
(please supply evidence if necessary)

Intended Future Use of Property:
(please supply evidence if necessary)

SECTION 3 – OTHER PREMISES OWNED/LEASED IN SCOTLAND

Do you have any other premises in Scotland? YES NO

If **YES**, please provide us with a copy of the most recent rates bill you have for the property/properties.

Premises Address	Rateable Value	Occupied Yes/No
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SECTION 4 – STATE AID

If your business has received other public sector assistance in excess of 200,000 Euros (approx £150,000) over a rolling three-year period (the *de minimus* limit for State aid), it is possible you may not qualify for relief under the Scheme. If you consider you have already received in excess of, or close to, this sum over the past three years, please provide details.
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SECTION 5 - DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

The Council collects information for the purposes of administering the Fresh Start Relief Scheme. The information we collect will be held on computer and may be used for any purposes the Council has registered under the Data Protection Acts. We may check information provided by you, or information provided by a third party, with other information held by us.

We may also obtain information about you from certain third parties, or give information to them, to check the accuracy of the information; to prevent or detect crime, or to protect public funds in other ways, as permitted by law. These third parties include other local authorities or government bodies.

We will not disclose information about you to anyone outside the Council unless the law permits us to do so.

SECTION 6 – DECLARATION

I/we declare the information I/we have given on this form is correct and complete.

I/we have read the Council's data protection statement given above and understand if I/we give information that is incorrect or incomplete, or fail to report any changes, which might affect my/our Rate Relief, I/we may be prosecuted.

Signature.....

Company Stamp

PRINT NAME.....

Date.....

Tel.Number..... E-mail.....

If you have any questions about this for, or you wish to discuss its contents, please contact us. We will try to help you, and promise any discussion will be confidential.

Inverclyde Council, P O Box 9467, Greenock, PA15 1JD
Telephone 01475 712270 Or e-mail: rates@inverclyde.gov.uk