



North Tyneside Council

Reference: RFI 1706085

Request:

Our focus for businesses, but also consumers, is to promote the principles of Treating Customers Fairly and provide information and support to the often neglected small business owner who are often left vulnerable and financially disadvantaged because of the limited resources available to them.

As a consequence, I contact you for your help and assistance in line with the guidance provided by the H M Government website GOV UK

In support of our request for help to you, we do of course submit our request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in doing so gratefully request your help in providing to us the following information from your Business Rates Department.

- We are in need, please, of a list of all business premises within your billing area who did not receive the Retail Relief Discount in 2015 despite the rateable value being less than £50,000 at the time.
- I understand each local authority has different technology available to them so I have attached a template we received from another Council recently which hopefully you will find workable...but otherwise we will be happy with any other format you find more suitable for yourselves
- I am happy for this information to be sent to us as an email attachment or by secure post
- Our responsibilities and commitment to Data Handling are of course in accordance with our ICO registration
- In the unlikely event, you find it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, of the Act - then we would be please to receive your advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how we should review or reformat our request in order for it to be included in the scope of the Act.

Response:

Thank you for your request for information. I can confirm that all business that met the qualifying criteria of the retail relief scheme received the relief. To clarify there are some businesses with a rateable value of below £50,000 that did not receive the relief as these were excluded due to the nature of the business, as set out in the government guidance.

When the Retail Relief Scheme was introduced a project of work was carried out to identify all those who were entitled to the relief and the relief was automatically awarded. A letter was issued with a state aid declaration for return from those customers who were not entitled to the Relief due to the state aid limits. Any returns received led to the removal of the Relief.

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Date: 17/07/2017

Page 1 of 1