

Consultation Paper

Non-Domestic Rating Measures

November 2023

Lisney

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



As reported in the press last week, the Dept of Finance in N Ireland has launched a 14-week consultation on a range of rates reliefs and allowances.

This follows a direction from Chris Heaton-Harris to consult on measures to support budget sustainability and raise additional revenue.

The Dept is seeking views from those who may be directly affected and from the wider body of ratepayers. There are 7 no proposals for changes to rate reliefs:

The following 4 no are in the Non-Domestic sector.

NON-DOMESTIC VACANT PROPERTY RELIEF (NDVR)

Currently 50% vacant rates are payable after 3 months initial exemption when a property becomes vacant

INDUSTRIAL DERATING

Currently manufacturing companies benefit from 70% rates relief (paying 30% of full rates)

FREIGHT TRANSPORT RELIEF

Provides 75% rate relief to premises that are occupied for the purpose of handling and shipment of goods that are neither owned by, nor intended for the use of, the operator

EXEMPTION FOR STUDENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE

Although Queens University and Ulster University are fully rateable, the 17 halls of residence connected with those universities are currently fully exempt from rates.



The published document draws attention to the current arrangements in England and Wales, and harmonising the reliefs with GB will essentially mean removing reliefs and increasing the NI rate payer costs .

The weblink to the relevant document and some more detail is [HERE](#). The consultation period runs until 13 Feb 2024 and all interested parties have the opportunity to respond.

If you need any more information, or you need some advice pulling together a response, contact

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