

Can I get money off my bill?

Small business rates relief (SBR)

- Your business must occupy one property with a rateable value less than £18,000, or
- One main property and additional properties providing the additional properties rateable value does not exceed £2,600

The amount of relief you can receive is doubled until 1 October 2011. We may be able to backdate your claim.

Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) relief

Charities and registered CASCs can claim 80% relief where the property they occupy is used mainly for the purposes of the charity or CASC.

Discretionary rate relief

We have discretion to give relief to non-profit making organisations working in the interest of local residents or aimed at the most disadvantaged.

Rural rate relief

Certain occupied properties in a rural settlement may be entitled to 50% relief. You can also apply for discretionary rate relief.

Unoccupied property relief

From 1 April 2011 the exemption threshold is £2,600. Business rates are not charged for the first three months. This is extended to six months for certain industrial units. After this, full rates are due.

Partially occupied property relief

Depending on the circumstances we may be able to help for a short time.

Hardship relief

We have discretion to grant relief in exceptional circumstances to businesses experiencing severe financial hardship.

We could prosecute if you give incorrect information, or don't tell us if your circumstances have changed which means you continue to receive a relief you are not entitled to.

Changes to SBR means some payments will not start until October 2011. If you would like to spread your payments over the year please start your monthly payments now. (Divide the amount due by 10)

Want to pay by
Direct Debit?
Sign up online at:

www.kirklees.gov.uk/directdebit



 business.rates@kirklees.gov.uk
Contact us on 01484 414941
www.kirklees.gov.uk/businessrates

Circumstances
changed?
Please tell us
immediately

About your business rates

National non domestic rates, more commonly known as business rates: are charged to occupiers or owners of non domestic properties. They are collected by local councils and used to contribute to the costs of local services provided by Kirklees Council.

If you occupy or own a non domestic property, and it is in the valuation rating list, the occupier or owner is liable for rates. No occupier should assume they do not have rates to pay, even if the property is empty.

Rateable Value: unless the property is exempt from business rates, each non domestic property has a rateable value set by valuation officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). It is their responsibility to maintain the full list, which can be viewed on their website at www.voa.gov.uk

Rateable values broadly represent the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular day. This is 1 April 2008 for the current list which came into force on 1 April 2010.

Valuation officers may alter values if circumstances change, or appeals against the value in the list are successful. Grounds for making an appeal and the process for doing so can be found on the VOA website or at local valuation offices.

Rating multiplier: business rates are calculated by multiplying the rateable value by the appropriate multiplier. There are two multipliers; standard, and small. The standard multiplier is higher and pays for small business relief. The multipliers change annually in line with inflation and to take into account the cost of small business relief.

Transitional arrangements: ensure everyone pays their fair contribution. Rateable values are assessed every five years to reflect changes over time in property value relative to others. The revaluation does not raise any extra income for the government.

Transitional arrangements ensure large increases in bills are limited and phased in. To help pay for this there also has to be limits on reductions in bills.

Rating advisers: you do not have to be represented in discussions about your rateable value or rates bill. Appeals against rateable values can be made free of charge. If you wish to be represented, see the following websites for qualified and regulated rules to help protect you.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) – www.rics.org

Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV) – www.irrv.net

Check any adviser has the expertise, knowledge and indemnity insurance.

Deferred payment of 2009/10 rates: the balance yet to be collected will be included in your 2011/12 bill.

Are you finding it difficult to pay? Please contact us now, we will do our best to help. We may be able to agree a different payment arrangement with you, such as smaller, regular payments, or a different payment date. By contacting us early, we may be able to spread the cost of your business rates over a longer period of time.

Please do not ignore your bill. If you do not pay on time we will take recovery action against you and add these costs to your bill.

E-billing, the new way to receive your business rates bill

Our new service gives you quick and easy access to your business rates bill online.

It's free to register. Go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/ebilling

Do more online. Go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/businessrates

You said:

you wanted the option to receive business rates bills online, saving paper and helping the environment.

*We are:
introducing e-billing so you will be able to receive your business rates bill electronically.*

Our performance and achievements in 2010/11

Our innovative and efficient approach to delivering services means we've been able to make good progress in meeting your priorities, whilst identifying cost savings imposed by the government.

During the year we:

- saw more students gain five or more GCSEs
- improved opportunities for working age adults through education, training and apprenticeships
- helped over 8,000 adults receive greater flexibility in social care provision
- made Kirklees a safer place by reducing crime and alcohol related incidents
- achieved 'good' or 'outstanding' Ofsted assessments for all council children's homes
- reduced the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- repaired over 129,000m² of road and 34,000 potholes to keep local people moving.

Our plans for 2011/12

In the coming year we will:

- provide value for money and services that are effective and productive
- continue to prioritise help for families and businesses feeling the effects of recession
- enhance life chances and employment opportunities through education and training
- support communities to live healthy and active lifestyles.

Where your council's budget comes from

1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

	2011/12 Net Expenditure	2010/11 Net Expenditure
	£m	£m
Kirklees approved budget	321.3	345.2
Funded from:		
Formula grant	159.2	157.1
Pooled grants*	7.6	30.4
Collection fund balances	0.0	-1.6
General fund balances	-1.0	4.5
Council tax	155.5	154.8
	321.3	345.2
Other sources of income:		
Dedicated schools grant and other school grants	304.5	303.4
Other government grants	180.5	180.6
External income	126.2	115.4
Gross expenditure	932.5	944.6

*The nature and amount of the grants received by the Council has changed considerably since 2010-11

Kirklees - changes in requirements from 2010/11 to 2011/12

The cost of services provided has decreased from 2010/11 for the following reasons:

Net expenditure 2010/11	£m
	£345.2
a) Inflation and price increases	+3.3
b) Net changes in service resources	-2.3
c) Efficiencies	-24.9
Net expenditure 2011/12	£m
	£321.3

Where your council's money goes

Service	2011/12		Service	2010/11	
	Gross £m	Net £m		Gross £m	Net £m
Children & Young People	444.1	73.1	Children's services	457.6	84.2
Well Being and Communities	159.4	113.5	Adult and community services	167.9	122.7
Place	93.1	55.6	Highways	25.9	16.0
Resources	181.3	24.5	Environmental health	37.7	26.6
Capital charges, contingency and other items	34.5	34.5	Regeneration (inc. culture & leisure)	45.4	30.4
WY Passenger Transport Authority	17.7	17.7	Revenues and benefits	137.0	4.6
Other joint committees	2.4	2.4	Other Kirklees services	15.6	3.4
Total Kirklees expenditure	932.5	321.3	WY Passenger Transport Authority	16.6	16.6
Plus: parish council precepts	0.5	0.5	Other joint committees	2.2	2.2
	933.0	321.8	Contingency and capital charges	38.5	38.5
			Total Kirklees expenditure	944.4	345.2
			Plus: parish council precepts	0.4	0.4
				944.8	345.6

The figures are adjusted for capital charges.

Direct service by service comparisons between 2010/11 and 2011/12 are affected by a major restructure of the council and its budgets

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority



Central government is cutting financial support to the fire and rescue service by 25% over the next four years. The method in which reduction of funds is distributed means West Yorkshire will lose even more, heralding a period of unprecedented change in the way our fire and rescue service provides emergency cover.

In fact, over the next two years metropolitan brigades such as ours – which serve the most deprived inner city wards in the country and also provide the backbone of national resilience infrastructure – will lose twice the national average.

In order to freeze the council tax precept my fire authority has had to manage a £5.8m cash shortfall for 2011/12. This will be achieved by:

- suspension of full-time firefighter recruitment for the foreseeable future
- voluntary severance of non-operational staff
- use of £850k from reserves.

I believe that prudent financial management will see us through the next two years but there is likely to be a further significant loss of funding for 2013-15.

The chief fire officer has already commissioned a fundamental and county-wide review of fire cover so that all options can be considered and publicly shared.

Councillor David Ridgway, Chair

Budget 2011/12

Gross Expenditure	2010/2011 £m	2011/2012 £m	Per head
	96.840	93.172	
Less income	-3.330	-4.273	
	93.510	88.899	
Less contribution from reserves	-650	-839	
	92.860	88.060	38.32
Less Revenue Support Grant	-7.290	-12.328	-5.36
Less Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates	-50.200	-39.886	-17.36
Proportion of Collection Fund Surpluses	51	-89	-0.04
Precept	35.421	35.757	15.56

What are the changes from last year	2011/2012 £m
Standstill brought forward	92.860
Inflation	333
Government grants	-891
Changes in quantity or quality of service	-4.053
Difference in fees and charges	0
Changes in uses of reserves	-189
	88.060

For FREE fire safety advice visit: www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

West Yorkshire Police Authority



The Government's recent spending review has led to a reduction in the grant to West Yorkshire Police Authority of 5.1% in 2011/12. Further reductions will be made in the following three years.

Since West Yorkshire receives about 79% of its funding from Government grants, this has left the Police Authority and Force with the task of reducing the police budget for 2011/12 by £37.3m. Our shared priority from the outset has been to maintain as far as possible 'front-line' policing required by the public of West Yorkshire. We have restructured the Force back-office and support functions to create a leaner organisation. We have frozen recruitment, so that we can try to reduce police staff numbers through normal turnover as much as possible, rather than by enforced redundancy. We cannot make police officers redundant, but we have stopped recruiting new officers for the time being. This means that, as existing police officers retire or leave the Force, the total number of police officers in West Yorkshire will reduce.

We are also pushing ahead with plans alongside the other police authorities and forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region to deliver some back office and specialist support services regionally, such as procurement and forensic services. Joint working to date, such as the creation of a regional team to tackle criminals who travel across force borders to commit serious crime, has been shown to produce better results and at a lower cost than the four forces could achieve working alone.

The Police Authority will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure that police performance and public confidence remain our top priorities over the next 12 months.

- The police budget for 2011/12 is reduced by 3.9% to £432.8m.
- There will be no increase to the annual council tax precept for policing.
- Band D households will continue to pay £130.50 per year for policing during the coming year.

Budget	adjusted 2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m
Gross Expenditure	539.854	509.170
Budget Requirement (gross expenditure minus income)	450.228	432.794
What the money is spent on	£m	
Police officer pay	283.857	
Police staff pay	121.694	
Running costs	90.819	
Costs of borrowing	10.942	
Police authority costs	1.858	

For more information visit: www.wypa.org or contact: Fraser Sampson, Chief Executive and Solicitor, West Yorkshire Police Authority, Ploughland House, 62 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1DL. Telephone (01924) 294000 or e-mail ed@wypa.pnn.police.uk.



WYITA

Metro spends £72m supporting the county's rail network, £50m on concessions for children, older, blind and disabled people.

Around £25m is spent subsidising vital West Yorkshire bus journeys that bus operators don't consider sufficiently profitable. This means 90% of West Yorkshire's bus services are either wholly or partly paid for by Metro.

This year the five West Yorkshire Districts are being forced to make significant savings and Metro's budget is going to be similarly affected, with a 7.4% cut on our discretionary spend.

Although Metro delivers the highest efficiency among the UK's PTEs, and has already made around £1m of staffing savings it is still facing cuts of £3.5m this year with a further £6.5m the following year. And with more than 50% of our budget being tied to statutory expenditure such as free off-peak bus travel for people over 60 and supporting local rail services, we are limited to areas such as staffing efficiencies, tendered bus services and concessionary fares to find those savings.

We will continue to work closely with the Districts to protect front-line services as much as possible, but faced with finding cuts on this scale we are also asking the bus operators to work with us and absorb some of the costs involved.

Metro believes that the bus operators will agree that it is in their long-term interest to work with us to maintain a working bus network across the county. If they don't it will, unfortunately, mean higher fares for young people and the disappearance of some early-morning, late-night, Sunday and rural bus services.

Funding of Transport Budget	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m
Gross expenditure	211.8	207.0
Budget requirement (gross expenditure minus income)	174.9	171.7

Where the money comes from

Government grants	82.4	72.1
Transport levy	91.8	97.5
Other	37.6	37.4

How your money will be spent in 2011/12

	£m		£m
Rail Support	72.1	Passenger services	13.2
Concessionary fares	50.5	Development and	
Prepaid tickets	27.5	other support	10.2
Subsidised and		Financing and contingency	8.3
AccessBus services	23.7	Pensions	1.5

For more information visit: www.wyita.gov.uk

Small business rate relief



Use this form to apply for small business relief.

Return your completed form to Kirklees Council, Business Rates Section,
Civic Centre 1, Huddersfield, HD1 2NF

Name of business or organisation:

Address of property to which this application relates:

Business rates account number:

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Contact name:

Position held in organisation:

Contact address if different to above:

Landline telephone number:

Mobile:

Email address:

Application is for the financial year:

Do you occupy any other business properties:

Yes/No

Delete as appropriate

If yes, please give addresses:

I confirm the information I have given is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

Date:

It is a criminal offence to give false information