



Oifig an Runaí Aire

Office of the Minister of State

14 December 2021

Cllr. Séamas McGrattan

seamas.mcgrattan@dublincity.ie

Ref: HPLG-MoSB-01105-2021

Dear Cllr. McGrattan,

I refer to your correspondence in connection with the waiver of rates due to COVID-19, as discussed by the Members of Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee. Your correspondence was forwarded by Minister Darragh O'Brien.

The Government recouped €729m to local authorities to fund the cost of a rates waiver in 2020. This meant that for eligible businesses their commercial rates were funded by Government for nine months of 2020. €480m was allocated by Government to fund the cost of a waiver for eligible businesses covering Q1 to Q3 this year. These are unprecedented measures, which offered support to businesses and financial certainty to local authorities.

A more targeted rates waiver for Q4 2021 was announced in Budget 2022 to cover the hospitality, leisure and entertainment sectors, travel agency and airports sector. €62.3m has been allocated by Government for this waiver. The waiver is intended to assist specific sectors as they continue to be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions beyond September 2021.

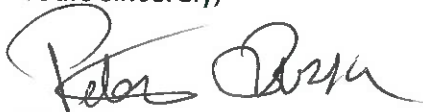
It is recognised that the hospitality and tourism sectors make a very significant contribution to local authority income through their commercial rates, and to local economies generally by enticing visitors, boosting walk-in trade for other businesses and providing employment, including in peripheral parts of the country where other options may be limited. It accepted that the hospitality and tourism sectors are widely affected by current COVID-19 restrictions, including through mandatory proof of immunity and identification and/or the requirement to have protective measures in place.

As with all public health measures and associated supports, the waiver of commercial rates will be kept under review. As has been the case since the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department will continue to engage with the local government sector and with individual local authorities on the financial impacts of the pandemic.



I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Burke T.D.
Minister for Planning and Local Government

Please note: I am a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015