

Business Rates Pub Discount 2020/21 Scheme – Qualifying Criteria

The scheme will be available to eligible occupied properties with a rateable value of less than £100,000. Where pubs are part of a chain, relief will be available for each eligible property in the chain, subject to meeting State Aid requirements.

For relief to be granted, the Council must make a decision within 6 months of the end of the financial year to which it relates.

The Government's policy intention is that eligible pubs should:

- be open to the general public
- allow free entry other than when occasional entertainment is provided
- allow drinking without requiring food to be consumed
- permit drinks to be purchased at a bar
- Not exceed State Aid limits.

For these purposes, it should exclude:

- restaurants
- cafes
- nightclubs
- hotels
- snack bars
- guesthouses
- boarding houses
- sporting venues
- music venues
- festival sites
- theatres
- museums
- exhibition halls
- Cinemas
- concert halls
- casinos

These lists are not exhaustive and may be added to.

Awards of this relief must comply with the EU law on State Aid. To qualify for this relief, a business should not receive more than €200,000 of State Aid, under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013, in a 3 year period (being the current and prior two financial years).

If no De Minimis State Aid has been received or where the cumulative total awarded does not exceed the €200,000 limit, including any other Pub Discount that has been granted for premises other than the one to which this claim relates, no further action is required. The €200,000 threshold may be of particular relevance to those premises that are part of a large chain.

Further information on State Aid can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>