

Arrangements relating to Commercial Rates and COVID-19

Galway City Council recognises the financial pressures being experienced by the business sector and is cognisant that businesses such as those in the hospitality, retail and leisure and childcare sectors have been identified as sectors that are adversely affected by the measures introduced in response to COVID-19.

Deferral of Rate Payments for Businesses immediately affected:

Galway City Council in line with the recent Government announcement will be deferring rates payments due from Businesses most immediately impacted by COVID-19, primarily in the retail, hospitality, leisure and childcare sectors for a period of three months until the end of June 2020. Businesses that can continue to pay their outstanding local authority rates should continue to do so in the normal way.

If your Business is experiencing cash flow difficulties in paying rates you are requested to contact the Rates Department at rates@galwaycity.ie or telephone 091536856 / 091 536401

Please have following information to expedite our response to your query:

- Address of the property
- Your mobile or landline number
- A Customer or property reference number will also be helpful for reference.

Please be assured that the staff in Galway City Council's Rates Office will work with you and all ratepayers during these challenging times and will respond to all your queries on a daily basis.

Ongoing adaptation of responses from Galway City Council:

In a prolonged COVID-19 situation, the categories of ratepayers experiencing difficulties may change, and therefore the Council will monitor the situation closely and will be dealing with difficulties experienced by ratepayers on a case by case basis.

A COVID-19 Response Group was established by Senior Management in Galway City Council and have been meeting on a daily basis since COVID-19 was first confirmed in Ireland and will continue to monitor and assess the impact on our residents and businesses in this rapidly changing situation.

Further information and support resources for the business sector:

Our Economic Development Directorate and Local Enterprise Office also want business owners to know that there are supports in place to further help them with the challenges they are suddenly facing because of the COVID-19. For further details of the supports that are in place to address challenges facing businesses as a result of COVID-19 check regular updates on Local Enterprise Office website <https://www.localenterprise.ie/response>

The Government's Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) is now operating a Business Support Call Centre to advise on the Government supports available to businesses and enterprises that are affected by COVID-19. The Call Centre can be contacted at 00 353 1 631 2002. In addition, on the COVID-19 Supports page on the Department's website <https://dbei.gov.ie> there are numerous links to vital information, supports available and advice to business on dealing with COVID-19.

25th March 2020