

**Request:**

I would like to submit an FOI request regarding the Business Rates Relief Scheme announced in the March 2017 Budget, which allocates £300 million to local authorities over four years from 2017-18.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/discretionary-business-rates-relief-scheme>

Regarding the Scheme, I would like to know:

- a. Whether your council has already begun distributing to local businesses the funding made available for 2017-18 as part of the Relief Scheme?

We have paid out the pub relief scheme additional funding (£80,000) and are scheduled to pay out the small business cap increase funding at the end of August when our software suppliers provide mechanism to do so. We have identified the 30 businesses that will qualify for this additional relief.

For the additional discretionary pot (of which North Tyneside has £310,000) to allocate we have devised the discretionary scheme, awaiting Cabinet sign off, and will be supporting a further 445 businesses through full spend of the fund. We anticipate this will be paid out at the end of August.

- b. If the answer to (a) is yes, how much (in £s) has already been allocated to local businesses?

See response above