



New Anglia Space to Innovate Enterprise Zone

District Council Discretionary Business Rates Relief

Frequently Asked Questions

What rates relief is available in the Enterprise Zone?

Potentially relief of up to approximately £55,000 per year is available for any business which locates in the Enterprise Zone before 1st April 2021. The relief can be awarded for up to five years (maximum overall relief is currently around £275,000).

Specifically, you are being considered for a business rate discount due to your location within the New Anglia Enterprise Zone. Relief from rates is considered to be State Aid, when your specific business rates discount is assessed, any previous State Aid (for a 3 year period) will need to be taken into account as a business is only allowed to receive €200,000 (circa £160,000) aid over any period of three fiscal years.

What do I have to do to receive this EZ rates relief?

You can apply for EZ rates relief by completing the application online ([click here](#)) Please complete this form and arrange for a director of your business to sign the declaration. You will also have to complete and sign the State Aid Eligibility Questionnaire ([click here](#)). This information will be used to assess your eligibility to receive assistance.

PLEASE NOTE ; For the purposes of calculating total State Aid received by a group of businesses ALL aid received by any of the businesses within the group (located within the Enterprise Zone site and outside of it) must be taken into account.

Should you require a paper copy please contact the District Council (see end of these guidance notes for contact details).

What does State Aid mean?

State Aid is financial assistance under the De Minimis Regulation (1998/2006). Any assistance you may have received from a public body might be a De Minimis aid. This could be from central, regional, devolved governments or agencies or a local authority. The following is not a comprehensive list of all possible forms of aid. However, it should give you an indication of common forms of aid which you may have been given.

Forms of possible aid;

State grants;

Grants from government funded bodies for example: New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership; Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS); Innovate UK, Skills Development Agency; Local Authorities

National Lottery grants

Interest rate relief or favourable loan terms (the value of State Aid is the difference between the preferential and commercial rate)

Tax relief, exemptions or credits

State guarantees or holdings;
State provision of goods or services on preferential terms;
Direct subsidies;
Tax exemptions;
Preferential interest rates;
Guarantees of loans on especially favourable terms;
Acquisition of land or buildings either gratuitously or on favourable terms;
Provision of goods and services on preferential terms; Indemnities against operating losses;
State guarantees, whether direct or indirect, to credit operations preferential re-discount rates;
Dividend guarantees;
Preferential public ordering;
Reduction of, or exemption from, charges or taxes, including accelerated depreciation and the reduction of social contributions;
Deferred collection of fiscal or social contributions; Assistance financed by special levies;
Capital transfers;
Certain State holdings in the capital of undertakings.

Less obvious examples of where State Aid might arise

Consultancy advice
Advantages resulting from the activities of agencies for urban renewal
Assistance to help companies invest in environmental projects
Assistance to help a public enterprise prepare for privatisation
Legislation to protect or guarantee market share
Public private contracts and partnerships not open to competitive tendering
Receipt of landfill tax credit funding
Free advertising on State owned television, and
Infrastructure projects benefiting specific users

We have had some State Aid from the list but it was years ago, how long ago do we go back to?

3 years. It will be the current financial year and the previous 2 full financial years.

Will this be the only assessment of State Aid for the 5 year period?

It will be assessed annually with a form similar to the original one issued at the start of your occupation in the Enterprise Zone

We have had help with costs from various places, how do I know if this is classed as State Aid?

If you have received De Minimis aid, you should have received a letter informing you that the assistance you were given was under the De Minimis regulation. If you are in any doubt as to whether previous assistance received would constitute De Minimis assistance please raises your concerns with us as soon as possible.

Which Regulations apply to this Discretionary Business Rates Relief?

You are being considered for assistance under the De Minimis Regulation (Regulation 1998/2006). Specifically, you are being considered for a business rate discount due to your location within the New Anglia Enterprise Zone. The De Minimis Regulation allows an enterprise to receive up to €200,000 De Minimis aid over any period of three fiscal years (as set out in EC Regulation 1998/2006 as published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 28 December 2006).

Additional Information

- **Is aid granted by the State or through State resources?**

State resources includes public funds from the EU, and central, regional or local government, or other public or private bodies designated or controlled by the State, such as the Arts Council, Skills Funding Agency, UK Life Sciences and Innovate UK. It includes indirect benefits such as tax exemptions that affect the public budget. Normal purchases by a State body at market value (including commissions, supplies and services) are not State Aid.

- **Does aid favour certain undertakings or the production of certain goods?**

An undertaking is an entity engaged in economic activity for which there is a market in comparable goods or services. It can include voluntary and non-profit making public or private bodies such as charities or universities when they engage in activities which have commercial competitors. It includes self-employed/sole traders, but generally not employees as long as the aid does not benefit the employers, private individuals or households. A benefit available to all businesses is not State Aid, it is a general measure. To count as State Aid, the aid must be only available to certain undertakings but not others in (for example to individual businesses, sectors, areas, sizes of business, or production of certain goods). State Aid favours businesses by conferring a direct or indirect advantage on them.

- **Does aid distort or threaten to distort competition?**

Does it potentially or actually strengthen the position of the recipient in relation to competitors? Almost all selective aid will have the potential to distort competition – regardless of the scale of potential distortion or market share of the aid recipient.

- **Does aid actually or potentially affect trade between EU Member States?**

Most products and services can be traded internationally therefore aid for almost any selected business or economic activity is capable of affecting trade between EU States, even if the aided business itself only operates within one country. The only likely exceptions are single businesses with a purely local market not close to a border.

Whom do I speak to/contact if I need help?

BMSDC contact details to be inserted here once new ones confirmed

Eunice Edwards,
New Anglia Enterprise Zone Manager
Email : eunice.edwards@newanglia.co.uk
Tel : 07808 647203

For further information;

www.newanglia.co.uk <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>