

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

16 March 2026

Dear Ratepayer

End of Supporting Small Business Rate Relief (SSB23)

You currently receive Supporting Small Business Rate Relief (SSB23), which has reduced your business rates since 01 April 2023. The government has confirmed this scheme will now be ending.

This letter provides 12 months' notice that SSB23 will cease on 31 March 2027.

(This assumes no earlier change to occupation or material changes made to the business premises)

Your final SSB23 award for 2026/2027 is shown on the front page of the enclosed bill on the line “supporting small business”. As this relief will end, from 1 April 2027, you may experience an increase after this date.

You may be thinking about appealing your rateable value (RV). RVs are set by the Valuation Office (VO), an organisation independent of the Council. You can register and submit a “check and challenge” appeal at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-challenge-your-business-rates-valuation

Revaluations occur every three years.

You have until 31 March 2026 to appeal your 2023 RV. If an appeal is submitted, the Valuation Office has advised that they have a current 12-month delay in reviewing appeals.

Appeals against your new 2026 RV can be made from 1 April 2026.

Business rates must still be paid while an appeal is in progress. If your RV is reduced, overpayments will be refunded.

We hope this advance notice supports your planning for any potential rise in business rates. If you have any questions relating to your bill, please contact the Business Rates team on **01305 211990** or **ndr@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**.

Kind regards

Business Rates Team