

APPENDIX A

Criteria for Awarding Discretionary Rate Relief

Each case will be considered on its own merits with priority given to efficient and well managed organisations that:

- primarily benefit Islington residents
- demonstrate a link with council priorities and promote a fairer Islington
- relieve the council of providing certain facilities or services
- serve the needs of poorer and excluded sections of the local community
- provide services for and in the borough's most deprived neighbourhoods
- maximise the use of their premises for community benefit
- serve equalities groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

Priority will also be given to:

- local organisations that are funded by the Council through grant-aid or service contract
- local organisations that have a governing body whose membership mainly consists of people who live and/or work in Islington or have a strong connection with the borough
- organisations reliant on volunteers to carry out their activities
- self help groups with few sources of funding to carry out their activities

Other Considerations

- the financial cost to the council incurred in awarding relief
- the organisation's ability to pay its rates
- the amount of central government funding levered-in by a discretionary rate relief award to deliver statutory or other council services

Not Eligible for Discretionary Rate Relief

Islington Council will not normally award discretionary rate relief to:

- Profit making organisations
- Empty properties
- Charity shops
- Private schools, colleges or nurseries or schools not within the Islington family of schools
- National charity headquarters
- Housing Associations (other than for community centres)
- Car parking spaces
- Buildings exclusively used for worship

Award Limits

The following limits to awards will apply (cost to the council of discretionary rate relief):

Up to £6,000	Organisations will normally be awarded 100% discretionary rate relief
Over £6,000	Awards will be proportionate to the level of local benefit which may be less than 100% discretionary rate relief

Conditions

All organisations will be expected on request to:

- make available annual accounts or financial statements
- provide evidence of activity over the past year
- demonstrate plans for services and activities over the coming year