



## UNITED KINGDOM – March 2025

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### Contents

<b>UK GENERAL .....</b>	<b>1</b>
BUSINESS RATES - WHAT'S IN STORE FOR BUSINESSES IN APRIL 2025? .....	1
RETAIL REPRESENTATIVES FROM HIGH STREETS UK RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUSINESS RATES .....	2
HIGH STREET FIRMS FACING EXTRA £1BN TAX BILL NEXT MONTH AS RELIEF SLASHED .....	2
MINISTER RULES OUT COUNCIL TAX REFORM DESPITE RALLYING CALLS.....	2
“RUSHED” PLANS FOR BUSINESS RATES REFORM BLOCKED .....	2
STAMP DUTY AND COUNCIL TAX RATES NOW THE HIGHEST IN THE ADVANCED WORLD .....	3
COLLIERS LABEL BUSINESS RATES BILL ‘POORLY THOUGHT OUT’ AND ‘GROWTH STRANGLING’ .....	3
BUSINESS RATES SUPPORT SET TO REMAIN AT 40%.....	3
COUNCIL TAX IS BROKEN - IT’S TIME TO FIX IT .....	3
BUSINESSES FACE BILLIONS OF EXTRA COSTS AS WAGES AND TAXES TO INCREASE .....	3
<b>ENGLAND .....</b>	<b>4</b>
500,000 SECOND-HOME OWNERS FACE PAYING TWICE AS MUCH COUNCIL TAX.....	4
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND .....</b>	<b>4</b>
RATES RELIEF SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND JOBS – O’DOWD.....	4
<b>WALES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
A LABOUR WEALTH TAX IS A GENUINE MENACE .....	4

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### UK GENERAL

#### Business Rates - What’s in store for businesses in April 2025?

This article, written by a rating practitioner, explores the measures put in place so far by the Labour Government in relation to business rates – including removing the eligibility for charitable rates relief for private schools, increasing the multiplier and removal of reliefs, lowering the multiplier for those with an RV of less than £500,000 at the expense of those with an RV of over £500,000 – and concludes that there is so far no sign of the government’s pledge to reform business rates to accelerate its “growth” agenda.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Business Rates - What’s in store for businesses in April 2025? - Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce](#)

#### International Property Tax Institute

IPTI Xtracts- The items included in IPTI Xtracts have been extracted from published information. IPTI accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or any opinions expressed in the articles.

## **Retail representatives from High Streets UK releases recommendations on business rates**

This article reports on policy recommendations put forward by High Street UK – an organisation representing Britain’s retailers - in response to the government’s business rates discussion paper. It includes the impact on retailers of the government initiatives relating to a higher multiplier for those with an RV of greater than £500,000.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Retail representatives from High Streets UK releases recommendations on business rates | Retail Week](#)

## **High street firms facing extra £1bn tax bill next month as relief slashed**

This article reports on analysis by a business tax specialist which indicates that the reduced discount applied to business rates in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors will raise an extra £1.03 billion in the current tax year. The article looks at the other budget changes that will affect businesses.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[High street firms facing extra £1bn tax bill next month as relief slashed | Perspective Media International](#)

## **Minister rules out council tax reform despite rallying calls**

This article reports that the Local Government minister, while planning to reform business rates, the audit system and council funding formulas, has ruled out reforming council tax in this parliament. The article considers the imbalance in council tax payments across the country.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Minister rules out council tax reform despite rallying calls | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\)](#)

## **“Rushed” plans for Business Rates reform blocked**

This article reports that the House of Lords have voted to block part of the government’s business rate reform plan which would cut business rates for small properties at the expense of higher tax rates for properties over £500,000 RV. The reasons behind the block were that the government had not carried out an impact study and that businesses such as large healthcare should be excluded from the scheme.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Government's Business Rate Reform Plans Stall | Startups.co.uk](#)

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## **Stamp duty and council tax rates now the highest in the advanced world**

This article reports that the UK has the highest property taxes of any advanced economy around the world. The article compares the UK to other OECD countries and details the increases in property taxes, and reductions in reliefs, that will come into effect on 1 April 2025.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Stamp duty and council tax rates now the highest in the advanced world - VNExplorer](#)

## **Colliers label business rates bill ‘poorly thought out’ and ‘growth strangling’**

This article hears comments from a firm of business rates practitioners that the Non-Domestic Rates Bill, currently being considered by the House of Lords, will strangle growth rather than succeeding in saving the high street. The Lords are proposing a range of amendments which have been sent back to the House of Commons for consideration.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Colliers label business rates bill 'poorly thought out' and 'growth strangling'](#)

## **Business rates support set to remain at 40%**

This article reports on the disappointment felt by businesses regarding the Government's Spring Statement despite lobbying from the hospitality sector.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Rachel Reeves Spring Statement business rates](#)

## **Council tax is broken - it's time to fix it**

This article examines the inequity in Council Tax, a regressive tax that sees the most valuable properties in some London Boroughs paying significantly less tax than small properties in other parts of the country. The article explains why this is happening and calls for the introduction of a proportionate property tax.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Council tax is broken - it's time to fix it](#)

## **Businesses face billions of extra costs as wages and taxes to increase**

This article looks at measures that will come into force in April 2025 including a rise in the national minimum wage, changes to national insurance contribution payments and higher property tax payments. The article explains the reduction in business rates relief for retail,

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hospitality and leisure properties and also the increases in business rates that will be faced by occupiers of larger properties.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Businesses face billions of extra costs as wages and taxes to increase - PA Media](#)

## **ENGLAND**

### **500,000 second-home owners face paying twice as much council tax**

This article reports that about three quarters of all local authorities in England are planning to double the annual council tax for second homes from 1 April this year. The article provides information that this is linked to a rise in second-home owners looking to sell up, and the value of some coastal properties falling by as much as 10%.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[500,000 second-home owners face paying twice as much council tax](#)

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

### **Rates relief supporting local businesses and jobs – O’Dowd**

This article reports that the finance minister has announced the continuation of the Small Business Rate Relief, Back in Business and rural ATMs exemption schemes for the 2025/26 year. The article gives details of the speech and reflects on the approved regional rate uplifts for domestic and business rates.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Rates relief supporting local businesses and jobs – O’Dowd | Department of Finance](#)

## **WALES**

### **A Labour wealth tax is a genuine menace**

This article proposes that an automated valuation model, or AVM, being used for the proposed revaluation of Council Tax in Wales will actually be used by the Labour Government to impose a new additional property tax on householders with assets over £10m.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[A Labour wealth tax is a genuine menace](#)

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