

Appendix 1 – 5 February 2020 - Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee – Business Rates Update

	Legislation	Details and stage of legislation
1.	Non Domestic Rate (Lists) Bill 2017-19	<p>Next Stage: This was due to go to the House of Lords in September. However, Parliament was prorogued until 14 October and the subsequent decision of the Supreme Court resulted in Parliament reconvening. It is likely that this legislation is now at its former stage in the respective process and will be tabled again to go to the House of Lords, however, there is no date currently.</p> <p>Brings revaluation forward from 2022 to 2021 - changes revaluation from 5 years to 3 years - changes date of draft list from 30/9 to 31/12</p>
2.	NHS Mandatory Relief	<p>Decision Received:</p> <p>A preliminary hearing was held on the 4th November 2019 and the decision given on 12th December 2019.</p> <p>The case in question was Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust and 16 others Vs Derby City Council and 44 others and the Charity Commission for England and Wales.</p> <p>The view of the High Court is that Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not a charity for the purposes of S43(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, which means that mandatory rate relief is not appropriate.</p> <p>As the decision was made in the High Court there is a high possibility that this will be appealed to a higher court so we may see this issue continue for some time to come.</p>

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		The full decision can be seen here .
3.	Breathing Space	<p>Action: Officers to review policies during 2020/21</p> <p>Next Stage: To be introduced from April 2021</p> <p>Bill not introduced yet - but before 31/12/2019</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/breathing-space-scheme-consultation-on-a-policy-proposal/breathing-space-scheme-consultation-on-a-policy-proposal</p> <p>Government commitment to support vulnerable consumers, stop problem debt occurring and help people out of problem debt. 60 day period of time to see advice and find a solution. For CT only monthly arrears, not ongoing debt, unless lost right to pay by instalments</p>
4.	Non Domestic Rates (Public lavatories) Bill	<p>Next Stage: This was due to go to the House of Lords in September. However, Parliament was prorogued until 14 October and the subsequent decision of the Supreme Court resulted in Parliament reconvening. It is likely that this legislation is now at its former stage in the respective process and will be tabled again to go to the House of Lords, however, there is no date currently.</p> <p>Funding from central govt. to be confirmed</p> <p>Introduced 18.6.19, 2nd reading 10.7.19</p> <p>Provides 100% relief to public toilets - public and private owned - free or charge for use – mandatory</p>
5.	Hospital (Parking charges and business rates) Bill 2017-19	Next Stage: Awaiting next date for reading to be announced

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		<p>Introduced September 2017 2nd reading due 11.05.18 - objected and postponed to 15.3.19 - objected again and postponed</p> <p>To prohibit charging for car parking at NHS Hospitals for patients and visitors; to make provision for NHS Hospitals to be exempt from business rates; and for connected purposes.</p>
6.	<p>Central Rating List (England)(Amendments) Regulations 2019</p>	<p>Action Central Govt: Laid 01.03.19, Effective 01.04.19</p> <p>Action / awareness for LA: This will no longer be in the central list from 2021</p> <p>Updates central list regulations (SI 2005/551). Recognises split between national grid as an electricity generation asset and a system operator. From 2021 properties occupied by National Grid Electricity System Operator LTD will not be shown on the central list.</p>
7.	<p>Non Domestic Rating (Preparation for Digital Services) Bill 2017-19</p>	<p>Action Central Govt: House of commons into 25.04.19, 2nd reading 13.05.19, committee and 3rd reading 20.05.19.</p> <p>Lords 1st reading 21.05.19, 2nd 11.06.19</p> <p>Action / awareness for LA: Consultation and collaboration will be required. Allows HMRC to invest in digitising NDR. New design of the system will not come in to force until after the next reval in 2024</p>