

12 November 2015

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Re: Proposed Vacant Property Refund Scheme 2016

Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for an amendment to rating law in relation to the refund of rates on vacant properties. This legislation gives the power to the members of local authorities to vary the level of rates refunds that apply in individual local electoral areas within the overall administrative area of the local authority.

Article 29 of the Local Government (Financial & Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 provides that the decision to alter the rate of refund should be decided at the statutory annual budget meeting and that the rate of refund decided in respect of the relevant local electoral area shall apply to eligible persons for the year to which the budget relates.

The budget has been framed on the basis of this proposed rate refund on vacant property:

Band	% Refund
Up to €2,624 Annual Rate Demand	100%
€2,625 to €10,449 Annual Rate Demand	50%
Over €10,450 Annual Rate Demand	25%

Terms and Conditions:

- Property must be vacant on the Date of Making of the Rate- available at www.limerick.ie/council
- Property must be habitable and maintained to a level that would allow its use for commercial purposes
- Application, as per above, must be made during November of each financial year.
- Payment, if applicable to the property category, must be receipted to the account prior to the application being submitted.

Approved applications will result in a write-off of the % allowance within the property value category- the write off cannot be applied if the payment due within the category is not made.

It is recommended that this level of refund be applied for 2016.

The Council are asked to determine the proportion of commercial rates refund that applies on vacant properties as per the Vacant Property Refund Scheme 2016, in accordance with the provisions of Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and Part 5 of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations, 2014 and Section 14 of the Local Government Act 1946.

Sean Coughlan

Acting Head of Finance