

**FOI DOF/2025-0286**

**Request**

1. The amount of money (equivalent to the rates exemption received) given out to companies that benefit from the Industrial derating policy in the rating year 24/25.
2. A list of the companies that benefit from the above policy, the amount of money received by each company in the rating year 24/25.

**DoF response**

I can confirm the department holds the information relevant to your request, however some information has been withheld where an FOI exemption applies, further details are provided below.

1. In the 2024/25 rating year, the net amount of Industrial Derating, processed as a rate reduction (not as a payment to the recipient) by Land and Property Services against eligible properties was £76,314,810.
2. Annex B lists all companies recorded by Land and Property Services with "Limited", "Ltd" or "PLC" in their name that received industrial derating in the 2024/25 rating year, along with the corresponding amounts.

An additional £13,890,841 of Industrial Derating was applied to properties in the 2024/25 rating year where the ratepayer name does not include "Limited", "Ltd" or "PLC" potentially indicating sole traders.

Some companies will have had derating adjustments made during 2024/25 that relate to previous rating years and therefore the total amount provided for the 2024/25 rating year will calculate greater than the net figure provided in response to question 1.

The LPS rating system contains information which does not distinguish between a business and a sole trader. Therefore, LPS cannot release some of the ratepayer names held as it might disclose information concerning sole traders.

The ratepayer name is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act because such disclosure would contravene the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018, which requires that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would be unfair, because the sole trader would not expect that this information would be made available to others.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant and if disclosure of that information would contravene one of the data protection principles in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (or certain other provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018).

Having considered all the information contained within the Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test (which we are providing as a separate attachment – Annex C), the department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requester is not the data subject.

The sole trader distinguishment was upheld in the Information Commissioner's Decision Notice FS50257023 of 7 February 2011 (see Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 50) ([ico.org.uk](http://ico.org.uk)) where the Commissioner found that the exemption at section 40(2) is engaged in relation to information in the database that related to properties owned by individuals in these cases.