

[Delay in the issue of rate bills](#)

There will be a delay in the issue of rate bills for 2017/2018. Plans are being put in place to allow bills to be sent out in May.

Letter to ratepayers

Usually at the beginning of April each year Land & Property Services (LPS) send annual rate bills to homes and businesses across Northern Ireland. This year, bills will be late due to a delay in the setting of the Regional Rate.

From the end of this week, LPS will be sending a letter to every ratepayer about the delay of 2017/2018 rate bills with advice and further information for ratepayers.

You can find details on this page:

Rate bill in May

The bill sent next month will cover rates assessed from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, as well as any unpaid rates from previous years.

If you normally pay by Direct Debit, you don't need to do anything. No direct debit payments will be taken until a new bill is issued.

If you normally pay by Standing Order, online, or by cheque, LPS would encourage you to make a payment based on last year's assessment.

More useful links

Share this page

[Delay in the issue of rate bills](#)

There will be a delay in the issue of rate bills for 2017/2018. Plans are being put in place to allow bills to be sent out in May.

Letter to ratepayers

Usually at the beginning of April each year Land & Property Services (LPS) send annual rate bills to homes and businesses across Northern Ireland. This year, bills will be late due to a delay in the setting of the Regional Rate.

From the end of this week, LPS will be sending a letter to every ratepayer

about the delay of 2017/2018 rate bills with advice and further information for ratepayers.

You can find details on this page:

Rate bill in May

The bill sent next month will cover rates assessed from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, as well as any unpaid rates from previous years.

If you normally pay by Direct Debit, you don't need to do anything. No direct debit payments will be taken until a new bill is issued.

If you normally pay by Standing Order, online, or by cheque, LPS would encourage you to make a payment based on last year's assessment.

More useful links

Share this page

[News story: Public sector pay awards for 2017-18](#)

Pay awards for armed forces, NHS staff and doctors and dentists set out by government.

The government has today (28 March 2017) set out the pay awards for armed forces, NHS Agenda for Change staff and doctors and dentists in line with the policy of an average 1% pay rise in 2016-17.

The government asked the following Pay Review Bodies to examine how an increase to base pay could be applied in line with the government's policy of an average of 1% across the workforces:

- Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB)
- NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB)
- Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDR)

The government has accepted the recommendations for the armed forces, NHS Agenda for Change staff and doctors and dentists to receive an average of a 1% pay increase.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, David Gauke, said:

It is always important to recognise the amazing work undertaken every day by our armed forces, doctors and dentists and NHS staff. The settlement for these key workforces protects jobs and helps repair the public finances. The OBR has forecast that the current pay policy will protect approximately 200,000 jobs across the UK.

I am pleased that we are able to accept the recommendations of the independent pay review bodies, and I thank them for their work.

[News story: Cancer innovation challenge in Scotland: apply for funding](#)

Organisations can apply for a share of £325,000 to find new ways of recording and integrating data on patient outcomes and experiences.

Up to £325,000 is available to fund the development of innovative technologies that find new ways of integrating data into Scotland-wide healthcare processes. The aim is to improve patient care.

These technologies should record and integrate cancer patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs). This will:

- improve experiences of treatment, care, and personal outcomes
- explore the clinical and psychosocial impact of new and established cancer treatment
- make better use of NHS resources by reducing waste and inefficient practices
- speed up the adoption of new technologies into the NHS through efficient evaluation mechanisms
- create high value research infrastructure with global reach

This competition has 2 phases. Up to £125,000 (including VAT) is available for phase 1, and up to £200,000 (including VAT) for Phase 2:

- Phase 1: technical feasibility. Projects should last up to 3 months and range in size up to a total cost of £25,000
- Phase 2: development and evaluation. Projects should last up to 6 months and range in size up to a total cost of £100,000
- this competition opens on 31 March 2017
- you must register before 15 May 2017
- you must apply by 29 May 2017

- there will be an [information session for potential applicants](#) on 19 April 2017 in Edinburgh (register by 10 April)
- organisations can carry out the project on their own or work with others

This is a [Small Business Research Initiative](#) (SBRI) competition. The [Data Lab](#) – funded by the [Scottish Funding Council](#) – [DHI Scotland](#) and [Stratified Medicine Scotland](#) will fund this competition.

[News story: Do you want to help shape the future of energy?](#)

Our scientists and engineers are working with partners around the globe to develop fusion as a new source of clean energy for future power stations. In partnership with industry and academia we are also developing opportunities to work together to enable our expertise to be used in non-nuclear applications, with an increased technology focus.

We are seeking two Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) for the UKAEA Board; one a Financial expert (who will also chair the Audit Committee) and the other an academic or R&D leader.

The positions are public appointments. Further information and application details are available on:

Finance NED

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/united-kingdom-at-omic-energy-authority-non-executive-director-finance-expert>

Academic NED

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/united-kingdom-at-omic-energy-authority-ukaea>