



The 24th National Rating Day

London - 6 June 2024		
Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS		
£300 + VAT	Registration: 09.15 Finish: 17.30	5.45 CPD Hours
To book: https://cptevents.co.uk/event/the-24th-national-rating-day		

The National Rating Day has become a major fixture in the Rating calendar. It is the largest gathering of rating practitioners year on year; and is a must attend event if you work within the profession. This hybrid event looks at the here and now, policy and reform and best and effective practice. Speakers represent the private sector, the Valuation Office Agency and the Valuation Tribunal Service.

Finally, after several years of business rates being in the headlines and with announcements in the budget and autumn statement, it appeared strangely silent on 6 March 2024. After so much reform from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act and the NDR Act, are the business rates reforms finally coming to an end?

No they are not. Regulations, implementation and bedding down are the themes of the National Rating Day. But that is not all. Hidden in "the devils in the detail" section of the budget, were plans to introduce General Anti-avoidance Rules (GAAR) into the rating world in England. The 4 policy leads from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England will participate in a talking heads about what it is, what is its intention and what of its implications on business rating in the UK.

If you offer rating advice to clients, this is the must attend event of the year. You can attend in person or join virtually.

Speakers:

Richard Williamson, GL Hearn Limited; Vice President of The Rating Surveyors' Association

Richard Harbord, Harbord & Co Solicitors

Speaker TBC, Local Taxation Division, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

Anouk Berthier, Scottish Government

Andrew McAvoy, Land & Property Services NI

Don A'Bear, Welsh Government

Myles O'Brien, GL Hearn

Dan Walsh, Valuation Office Agency

Josh Myerson, Montagu Evans LLP; Previous Past President of The Rating Surveyors' Association

Dawn Bunyan, Valuation Office Agency

Simon Griffin, Jones Lang LaSalle; President of The Rating Surveyors' Association

Andrew Hetherton, Andrew Hetherton Consulting Ltd

Alan Colston, Valuation Office Agency

Dan Kolinsky KC, Landmark Chambers

Feedback from past delegates:

"The premier event in the rating calendar - A must attend for all rating professionals"

"A very well organised event"

"The whole day was extremely interesting"

"A useful day of information with very interesting debates"

"The wide range of topics makes for a particularly interesting day"

"Another CPT triumph"

"Very beneficial day"

"The entire programme was constructed with the professional needs of rating specialists in mind. You just have to be there."

"Everything is interesting and extremely useful. All the materials help to improve my Rating knowledge and application to daily work"

"All the topics were interesting. The delivery and content from the speakers was excellent"



Topics Being Covered:

Rating Receipts Fund Local Government: With Authorities Seemingly Queuing up for Bankruptcy, The System is Clearly Not Working.

- Why is local government failing? The pathology of the disease
- Possible solutions
- What impact might there be on the rating system?

Commercial Rating Policy Update

- Rating practitioners will be familiar with the terms avoidance and evasion, but what about General Anti-avoidance Rules (GAAR) being applied to the rating world?
- Scotland has them, Wales is legislating for them, and England, whilst having been passive on their use, will be going out to consultation on using them.
- GAARs are used to deny tax benefit of transactions or arrangements which do not have any commercial substance and the only purpose of such a transaction is achieving the tax benefit.
- To quote the Explanatory Memorandum in the Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill "This provision will enable advantages gained from artificial avoidance arrangements to be counteracted, subject to a power for the Welsh Ministers to define in regulations the specific avoidance arrangements covered by the provisions. Penalties may also be imposed on liable persons who fail to pay an amount due in consequence of having made an artificial avoidance arrangement. The provisions will help the Welsh Government to address nondomestic rates avoidance, including behaviours that are not currently used or known about, but may emerge or be identified in future."
- Policy leaders will discuss what it is, its intentions and the implications on business rating in the UK?

Agents Standards/Compliance/Good Practice for CCA

- IRRV/RSA and RICS have endorsed it
- But what does it mean in practice?
- Behaviours sought to be eliminated?

How the Rating System can be Improved - An Agent Perspective

Changes to the Rating System from the Non-Domestic Rating Act 2023 – Those in Place, and Those to Come

- Improvement Relief from 1 April 2024
 - What is the relief?
 - How does it operate?
 - How do you apply for relief?
 - What happens if you are not happy with the outcome?
- Reliefs for Green Energy
 - What reliefs are available?
 - How were they applied in 2023/24?
 - How will they be applied from 1 April 2024
- Other changes arising out of the Non-Domestic Rating Act 2023 including changes to:
 - Multipliers
 - Small Business Rate Relief
 - Transitional Relief
 - Completion Notices
- Material Changes of Circumstance
 - What are the changes and how do they affect valuation?
- What is still to come:
 - Duty to notify
 - Annual confirmation
 - Penalties and Compliance regime
 - If this is to work, IT will be central to this.

A Talking Heads Discussion: Is There a Place for Appeals in a 3 Year Revaluation Cycle?

- As the VOA new computer infrastructure develops, as the duty to notify kicks in and as the Rating List matures, will appeals be consigned to history?
- What is the future of CCA?
- What will the future rating system look like?
- What are the tactics and processes?
- Who are the interested parties?
- What happens to the Tone of the List?
- Where might tensions emerge between ratepayer advisors and the VOA?

Case Law Update

- Dan Kolinsky KC provides his annual review of significant caselaw and topical legal developments affecting the rating world