

VALUATION TRIBUNAL SERVICE

Statistical Release

28 May 2010

NON-DOMESTIC RATING and COUNCIL TAX APPEALS (ENGLAND) 2009-10

This release provides information about appeals handled by the Valuation Tribunal Service during 2009-10 that were made against the 2005 non-domestic rating list and the council tax valuation list.

The release has been compiled from data at 31 March 2010 by the Valuation Tribunal Service. Further information about the work of the Valuation Tribunal Service is available from www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk.

These data will be published quarterly in a statistical release. The next release will be in July 2010.

Data for previous years can be found in the VTS Annual Reports and Accounts available on the website www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk.

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NON-DOMESTIC RATING APPEALS: 2005 RATING LISTS (ENGLAND)

1. Table 1 below shows the number of appeals against the 2005 non-domestic rating list brought forward at 1 April 2009, the number received during the year 2009-10, the number of appeals cleared during the year (whether settled between the parties or determined by a tribunal panel) and how many appeals were carried over on 31 March 2010.

TABLE 1: Non-domestic rating appeals: 2005 rating list (England) 2009-10	
Appeals brought forward at 1 April 2009	90, 200
Appeals received	116,000
Appeals cleared	124,000
Appeals carried forward on 31 March 2010	82,100

COUNCIL TAX VALUATION APPEALS

2. Table 2 below shows the number of council tax valuation appeals brought forward at 1 April 2009, the number received during the year 2009-10, the number of appeals cleared during the year (whether settled between the parties or determined by a tribunal panel) and how many appeals were carried over on 31 March 2010.

TABLE 2: Council tax valuation appeals (England) 2009-10	
Appeals brought forward at 1 April 2009	1,400
Appeals received	2,140
Appeals cleared	1,950
Appeals carried forward on 31 March 2010	1,600

Data Quality

The information supplied in the tables is based on the data held in the VTS central (appeals) database. The data are considered to be of consistent quality.

Rounding

In Table 1 figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

In Table 2 they are rounded to the nearest ten.

Uses Made of the Data

The data are used in reporting to stakeholders, including in the VTS Annual Report and Accounts, and in response to Parliamentary Questions and requests made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Background Notes

1. The Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) provides administrative support in England to the Valuation Tribunal for England (VTE), which hears appeals against non-domestic rating and council tax valuations. The VTE also hears a small number of other types of appeals.
2. All the data have been taken from our appeals database as at 31 March 2010.
3. For non-domestic rating list, appeals arise when the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) receives a formal challenge to a rating list entry and the dispute is not resolved within three months, after which they are automatically transferred to the VTS and become appeals.
4. New rating lists are compiled every five years containing updated rateable values and the 2010 rating lists came into effect on 1 April 2010. The intention in the future is to publish regular updates to the data in respect of appeals against the 2010 rating list.
5. While the non-domestic rating data cover appeals against both the central and local rating lists for England, they may include a statistically insignificant number of central list appeals for Wales, where the head offices of the appellants are located in England.
6. For council tax valuation, appeals arise when the VOA Listing Officer receives a formal challenge to a valuation list entry and issues a notice of decision to the proposer (and any other interested person) with which the person disagrees. The proposer (or interested person) has three months in which to make an appeal to the VTE against the VOA Listing Officer's decision.
7. The council tax valuation list came into effect on 1 April 1993.
8. The VOA also publishes a Statistical Release, quarterly. The data the VOA publishes for non-domestic rating refers to formal challenges, not appeals. Not all formal challenges result in appeals as some may be settled before they became appeals, so the figures in the VOA release will be different from those published in this Statistical Release. Whilst both releases show a snap-shot of the data from their databases, they may not refer to the same appeals. In addition, there is also a delay between staff at the VTS clearing an appeal on its appeals database and the VOA

clearing an appeal on its database. All of these factors mean that comparisons between the figures presented in both releases should not be made.

Glossary of terms

Appeal: a formal challenge made to the VOA on which agreement has not been reached and which comes to the VTE for resolution.

Billing authority: a local authority empowered to set and collect nondomestic rates.

Cleared appeal: an appeal that is no longer live, either because the dispute has been settled by agreement between the parties, or because there has been a determination by the VTE.

Formal challenge: Ratepayers and council taxpayers can make a 'Proposal' to alter the rating list or valuation list if they think an entry in there is wrong. This proposal asks the valuation officer (known as the listing officer for council tax) to change the entry in the list.

National nondomestic rates (NNDR): the means by which local businesses contribute to the cost of local authorities' services, although their level is set by central government. They are also known as "business rates".

Rating list: the Valuation Office Agency's list of all the businesses and nondomestic properties in England and Wales. There is a separate local list for each billing authority. There is also a central rating list for properties of companies named in the Central Rating List Regulations 2005, such as those with major transport, utility and telecommunications networks and cross-country pipelines.

Settled appeals: appeals that are no longer live because the dispute has been settled by agreement between the parties.

Valuation list: the Valuation Office Agency's list of all the domestic properties in England and Wales. There is a separate local list for each billing authority.

Further information

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Further information about the work of the VTS and VTE, the appeals process and related matters is available from <http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk>.