

# Rates Relief for UK Buddhist Centres

These instructions are from 2008, but we've updated the links - let us know if anything needs changing: [info@triratnadevelopment.org](mailto:info@triratnadevelopment.org)

1. First you must have registered your Buddhist Centre as a place of religious worship [here](#). After this form has been processed you should be issued with a certificate registering your building as a Place of Religious Worship.

2. Next you need to present your certificate to your local Valuation Office Agency. It is probably best to contact them via their website [here](#). They should reassess that part of the property used for the Buddhist Centre itself as being of zero rateable value.

If parts of your building are used for other purposes eg treatment rooms, yoga studio, etc, then those rooms will still have a rateable value. The rateable value for rooms used for admin and office work will probably be slightly discretionary.

When submitting the form it is best to contact the office in advance and try to get the actual name of the person to send it to; even to speak with them in advance so they have a clear idea of who you are and what your property is used for, ie a public Buddhist Centre.

3. Finally, submit your new rateable value to your local council (see [here](#) to contact your local council). They should then recalculate the rates due – the amount due is simply the Rateable Value (RV) multiplied by local council's 'multiplier' (which they set). If your new RV is zero, then you will be liable for zero rates however large the multiplier might be. It is quite likely that your local council offers charities a substantial discount on the normal multiplier – up to 80% is not uncommon. This is known as Rates Relief. You may already be benefiting from this. However their discount is discretionary whereas the reduction of Rateable Values for Places of Religious Worship is not.

Also I hope it is clear that the above procedure uses a different approach to reducing your rates bill, ie by reducing your Rateable Value rather than your multiplier.

4. If, in the future, you change the way your Centre premises are used, then you have a duty to inform the authorities of your new configuration, and your Rateable Value will be reassessed.