

**RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 20 JULY 2021**

**QUESTION G**

**Councillor Mrs O'Rourke to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:**

“Given the high vacancy rates of retail premises in the town centre and now also at junction one, can the leader of the council advise how much revenue has been lost in business rates over the last 3 years?”

**Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:**

“Under legislation, any vacant retail units are given a 100% exemption from business rates for the first 3 months of becoming empty. Following on from this full rates have to be paid by the owner.

We do not have access to the exact sums lost over the three years, but given the maximum period is 3 months and that the Borough (in cash terms) only retains 20% of any rates collected, the values are expected to be minimal.

From 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2021 all occupied shops received a 100% retail discount on their business rates and the Council has been compensated through a government grant for awarding this.

From 1 June 2021 – 31 March 2022 the discount has reduced to 66%, the government funding for providing this will continue for the period.”