

TV WORLD LTD  
212 HIGH STREET  
CHATHAM  
KENT  
ME4 4AN

7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Medway Council

My name is David Fraiss . I run a small business on Chatham High Street , TV WORLD . The Business has been going since 1996 . We now find ourselves in the fifth year of recession !

Retailing over the past few years has got increasingly difficult , there is only so much cost cutting , extra hours & lack of holidays you can endure ..... cash flow can only cover so much .

One of the big costs is business rates ..... we have spoken to the VOA , local council , town centre manager & councillors .

We have applied for " hardship relief " and currently have a notice for a rates appeal . Our landlord rent is now standing at £ 40,000 / annum down from previous rents , with our rates currently standing at £ 21755 ( after rate relief ) some 54.4 % of the rental figure this does not help !

To ensure survival and keep our business sustainable please help in the form of ` providing business rate discount ` in line with the governments guidelines . As you are aware chatham locally heads the shop vacancies with 16% ( national average 14.6 % ) .

Help us help the survival of CHATHAM HIGH STREET .

Yours faithfully

David Fraiss



A member of chatham town forum

Attached ..... notice of appeal / gov guidelines / a list of sup. business

Supporting this request

Company Name                      Address                                      Signature

INSTE                      213 HIGH ST.



Discount Pet Supplies / Pet Aqua                      245 High St



HARRINGTON'S                      245<sup>A</sup> HIGH ST



LISA BOUTIQUE                      269 HIGH ST



CHOCKERS                      275 HIGH ST



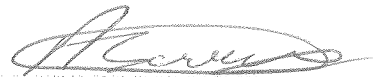
KICS                      277 HIGH ST



RIGHT CARD                      287 HIGH ST.



RELOAD                      274 HIGH ST



CLEOPATRA'S  
BEAUTY SPOT                      299 HIGH ST



Jesse  
café                      282 HIGH STREET



A Mantley                      311 High St.



MIRAN SALEH 317



Volley LTD 302/4





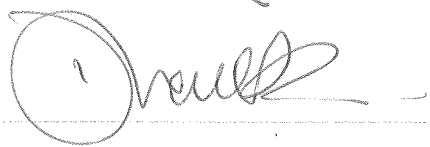







TULIP FOOD CENTRE 298-300



A member of chatham town forum

Attached ..... notice of appeal / gov guidelines / a list of sup. business

Supporting this request

Company Name	Address	Signature
MID AIR MUSIC	90 HIGH ST	
SHIRAZERS	221 HIGH ST	
JD HOMESYCE	206 HIGH ST	
JKen	266 HIGH ST.	First choice shoes
Tuyen Nguyen	254 high street	
ELTOBA LEATHER	286A High st	
FRESH FRUIT	286 High st	ALI
WORK SUPPORT	284 High st	Joe
M & M	4 Church St	
Tony + Franco Barber Shop	3 Church St	
PLANET PIZZA	313 HIGH ST	
Mowmy LASER WRITES.	309 High st	
chatham Grill	12 Batchelor street	

A member of chatham town forum

Attached ..... notice of appeal / gov guidelines / a list of sup. business

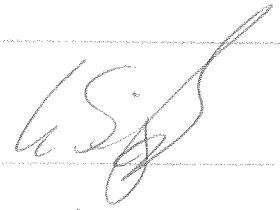
Supporting this request

Company Name

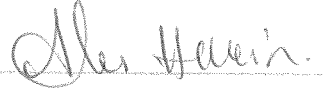
Address

Signature

BING BING FARM (209 W/ST.)



Lena's 165 High St Chatham



Monty's Homestore 163, High St Chatham



MANNY'S Mus. 2, 128 HIGH ST, CHATHAM



5.2.2 The cost of providing any such additional discounts would fall entirely on Medway Council. The difference between a ratepayer's normal bill and the actual liability after the discount would have to be funded by Medway Council. The source of funding would be at the Council's discretion but the total contribution of business rates to the national pool would be unchanged by the introduction of a business rates discount.

5.2.3 The policy behind a particular discount would need to be developed within the Council.

5.2.4 The Government's response to the Portas Review (an independent review into the future of our high streets) states 'We strongly urge local authorities to look at using their new powers to provide business rate discounts to small businesses and independent retailers.'

5.2.5 According to statistics produced by the Town Centre Managers, there are currently 115 empty town centre premises which produces the following vacancy rates:

High Street	Total No Props	Total No Empty Props	Vacancy rate
Chatham	428	68	16%
Gillingham	197	13	6.5%
Rainham	168	7	4%
Rochester	239	16	7%
Strood	120	11	8.8%
<b>Total/ Average</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>9.9%</b>

5.2.6 The National Vacancy Rate stood at 14.6% (Local Data Company, February 2012).

5.2.7 Were members choose to offer, say, a one month holiday from rates for each of these properties to attract new businesses it could cost the council between £10,000 to £33,000 dependent on the new occupier's eligibility for other reliefs such as transitional relief and small business rate relief.

## 6. Advice and analysis

6.1 The receipt of relief from business rates can be a lifeline for many voluntary organisations which in turn help to contribute to the educational, philanthropic, religious or cultural needs of Medway residents.

6.2 Officers believe that the council's current guidelines meet the balance between the Council's affordability in granting relief and the benefit that the particular organisation provides to the local community with one area of uncertainty. National charity shops are automatically awarded top-up discretionary rate relief without any need to demonstrate they are contributing to the Medway area.