



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Hourly Rate for the reimbursement of support provided to the Building Safety Regulator

***On 1 September 2024, the Building Safety Regulator confirmed and recorded
£75.50
as being the BSR Building Control Hourly Rate for North Kesteven District Council
(October 2023 to March 2024)***

The [Building Safety Act 2022](#) (the Act) established the [Building Safety Regulator](#) (BSR) within the Health and Safety Executive. The BSR has / will have three main functions:

- Leading implementation of the new regulatory regime for higher-risk buildings (which includes high-rise buildings).
- Helping and encouraging the built environment industry and building control professionals to improve their competence and organisational capability; and
- Overseeing the safety and standards of all buildings.

The Act makes provisions for regulations that authorise BSR to make and recover charges for, or in connection with, the performance of its relevant (“chargeable”) functions in accordance with a charging scheme published by it. Following a public consultation, BSR made proposals for regulations and an underpinning BSR Charging Scheme.

The BSR is authorised to recover the costs of its relevant functions under the Act in accordance with a charging scheme published by it. Section 13 of the Act provides for BSR to secure the assistance of a relevant authority (defined in the Act as local authorities and fire and rescue authorities) to enhance or facilitate BSR’s fulfilment of its relevant functions under the Act. These regulations and charging scheme will apply where BSR makes a request or direction under Section 13 for expertise and/or assistance of the NKDC building control team to support or facilitate the fulfilment of an activity under any of the relevant charging scheme schedules. For reimbursement purposes, NKDC has determined its hourly reimbursement rate based on the individual/s providing the professional support to BSR on a cost recovery only basis in line with the relevant elements of [Managing Public Money](#) and the [Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy \(CIPFA\) local authority building control accounting guidance](#). It is anticipated that the day-to-day administration of the MDT, IT infrastructure and overall project management will be provided directly by BSR and is not included in the calculations of the hourly rate.

On 2nd August 2023, the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) instructed all Heads of Building Control to make adequate arrangements for these rates to be available to the public at least seven days before the rate comes into force which was anticipated to be 1st October 2023. The above rate has been authorised by the [NKDC Section 151 Officer](#). The calculation and evidence of how this rate has been calculated was prepared and has been retained for audit purposes. Regional ranges of rates will be published on the [LABC website](#). It is proposed that rates will be reviewed annually.

David Steels
Assistant Director Environment and Public Protection
1 September 2023

Extract of draft charging scheme (Annex A to DLUHC HSE letter to Heads of Building control)

To set fees and charges HSE follows a four-step activity-based costing process to cost the direct time required to deliver the relevant direct recoverable activities.

Step 1 – salary costs: identify the total forecast volume of effort and total payroll cost (salary, employers' national insurance and employers' superannuation) of the individuals involved in the direct delivery of the activity. This is calculated as an average hourly rate per grade and assumes a total of 220 available days in a working year allowing for weekends, leave and other absences.

Step 2 – attributable costs: this is costed staff effort that is directly linked to the chargeable activity and is material enough to justify direct attribution of the costs (for example, training and development effort linked to a specific capability, management oversight, guidance, cost of travel time, and direct administrative and management support).

Step 3 – indirect costs: identify expenditure that can be clearly linked to specific direct activities (for example, travel and subsistence costs and training costs). These are included in the hourly rates rather than charged on an actual basis to each project.

Step 4 – overheads: this category includes all the usual overheads such as:

- infrastructure costs (for example, information technology/desktop services and estates/facilities management).
- corporate services (for example, finance, procurement, HR, corporate learning and development, legal services, IT services, communications, senior management).
- depreciation and impairments of relevant fixed assets.

The sum of the costs identified through steps 1 to 4 divided by the total forecast direct hours, provides a full cost per hour rate for delivery of a specific cost recovery regime. This is a blended rate (meaning it includes administration and management time rather than these being charged separately) which seeks to recover the full cost of operating the regime.

The accuracy of the activity assumptions and forecasts are reviewed annually and reported through a memorandum trading account in the HSE annual report and accounts which is audited by the National Audit Office.