

**Finance and Central Services Department
Local Government Constitution & Funding
Division**

Finance Circular No. 05/2004

Chief Executives, Scottish Local Authorities

Copy to: Directors of Finance
Heads of Revenue Departments

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131-244 7003

Fax: 0131-244 7020

Carol.
Sibbald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Your ref:

Our ref: ZCF 5/1

4 May 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

RATE RELIEF FOR COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUBS (CASCs)

1. The Minister for Finance and Public Services, Andy Kerr announced on 13 April that the Scottish Executive has secured a voluntary agreement with all local authorities in Scotland -subject to some local variations in relation to gun clubs - to grant at least 80 per cent discretionary rate relief to sports clubs which are registered as community amateur sports clubs with the Inland Revenue. The following link <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/pages/news/2004/04/SEFD375a.aspx> takes you to the Press Release on the Scottish Executive website.

2. The full cost of any discretionary rate relief granted to qualifying sports clubs will continue to be funded centrally. For the financial year 2004-05, details of discretionary rate relief granted to CASC registered sports clubs should be included in the entry for "sports clubs at line 15 on the Mid-Year return. The Notified Return and subsequent Audited/Certified returns which local authorities are required to submit this year, relate to the 2003-04 financial year which pre-dates the voluntary agreement. However, as in previous years, local authorities should record any discretionary rate relief granted to sports clubs in 2003-04 at line 13 on the notified return.

3. A letter will issue this week from sportscotland to the Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport, Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils and Local Sports Councils to tell them about CASC registration and its associated rate relief benefits. sportscotland has asked these bodies to disseminate this information to their members. The Scottish Executive and the Inland Revenue contributed to the letter to be issued by sportscotland.

4. The Scottish Executive will introduce 80 per cent mandatory rate relief for registered CASCs in Scotland -this requires primary legislation. Enabling legislation will be brought forward as soon as a suitable legislative vehicle has been identified.

5. Any enquiries about this Circular should be directed to me at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Carol Sibbald