

**NEW APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 AND 47 OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2011/12**

Applicant's Name: Newlife Trading Ltd Account Ref: 101127154

Property Address: Unit 2 On Line Business Centre, Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown, WS11 3LN

Registered Charity: Yes - 1001817

Occupation Date: 1 April 11 RE-SUBMITTED APPLICATION

Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary Period: 1/4/11 – 31/3/12

Use of Property: Charity shop, charity helpline, administration office and storage

Main Objectives: To provide funding for and to promote basic and clinical research into genetic defects. In addition, to provide relief and assistance to persons suffering from such defects and to provide relief and assistance to pregnant mothers where there is a danger of the child being born with such defects.

Financial Situation: As at 31 March 2010

£

Surplus (Deficit) (343,531.00)*
Reserves 4,036,058.00**

*Profit distributed by gift aid payment
**National Organisation

Previous Relief Granted: **Mandatory** - 80%
Discretionary - 0%

Rates Payable:

| Details of Charge | 2011/12 £ |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Full Charge | 38,320.50 |
| Less Mandatory Relief (80%) | 30,656.40- |
| Discretionary Consideration | <u>7,664.10</u> |
| | |
| If 7% Relief Granted: | 2,682.44- |
| <i>Cost to NNDR Pool (25%)</i> | 670.61 |
| <i>General Fund (75%)</i> | 2,011.83 |
| | |
| Rates Payable: | <u>4,981.66</u> |

Supporting Information:

Newlife Trading Ltd is a company limited by guarantee; it is a trading company which is part of the charitable organisation 'Birth Defects Foundation'.

The main objectives of the organisation are to fund medical research in order to understanding, prevent, alleviate and treat childhood disabilities and terminal illness in the UK; provide support to the families/carers of children affected and also provide equipment to help individual children.

The premises at Unit 2 On Line Business Park, Bridgtown are used primarily as a charity shop but are also used for administration, nurse and equipment services and medical research campaigns. Goods sold from the premises are donated and are mainly clothing.

This is a national organisation and operates throughout England and Wales. Profits from the trading company are distributed via a gift aid payment.

Comments

The Birth Defects Foundation have rationalised their occupation of properties in Cannock by moving into Units 1 and 2 Hemlock Business Park with effect from May 2002 and moving out of most of the others. However, they have more recently occupied additional premises at Unit 2 On-Line Business Centre, Bridgtown and Unit 3 The Retail Business Park, Hawkes Green.

Their application for Discretionary Relief for their occupation of Units 1 and 2 Hemlock Business Park was considered at the Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committee on 13 December 2002. However, as these are large premises, there were insufficient funds left in the Budget at that stage of the financial year to cover the cost to the Council of granting this relief. Their application has been resubmitted for consideration every subsequent financial year however, it has continually been refused on the grounds that it was inappropriate for one charity to receive such a disproportionate percentage of the overall budget.

In October 2010, Newlife Trading Ltd applied for a renewal of rate relief for 2011/12 in respect of this property; this application was included on the Rate Relief Report for the Committee meeting on 26 January 2011. At this meeting, Members resolved to refuse the application by Newlife Trading Ltd for top-up discretion rate relief in respect of these premises. Following their renewal application they vacated these premises on 30 January 2011. However, they have now re-occupied the property again with effect from 1 April 2011 hence their further application for rate relief.