

Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales)

Receipts and Payments Account 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Local Government Finance Act 1988

**Account prepared under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 to the Local Government
Finance Act 1988 (c.41)**

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**NON-DOMESTIC RATING ACCOUNT (WALES)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2023-24**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988

**POOLING OF NON-DOMESTIC RATES AND DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS IN WALES**

**Account prepared under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 to the
Local Government Finance Act 1988 (c.41)**

FOREWORD

Statutory Background

1. The account for 2023-24 shows:
 - a. sums received by the Welsh Ministers in 2023-24
 - i. under Section 54¹ in respect of non-domestic rates paid by ratepayers on the Central Rating list;
 - ii. under paragraph 5(5)² in respect of the provisional amount of non-domestic rates estimated by Billing Authorities³ to be collectable in 2023-24;
 - iii. under paragraph 5(9) in respect of the additional rates collected by Billing Authorities following the calculation of the final amounts of non-domestic rates due for 2022-23 and previous years, and from ratepayers on the Central Rating list following recalculations of amounts due; and
 - b. payments made by the Welsh Ministers in 2023-24
 - i. under paragraph 5(10) in respect of the repayments to Billing Authorities of excess contributions following the calculation of the final amounts of non-domestic rates due for 2022-23 and previous years,
 - ii. and to ratepayers on the Central Rating list following recalculations of the amounts due under Section 9(4) of the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Central Lists) Regulations 1989; and
 - iii. under paragraph 12 in respect of non-domestic rates distributed to Receiving Authorities in proportion to resident adult population.
2. Related accounts concerned with this expenditure are the Welsh Government Consolidated Accounts for the Welsh Ministers and the Welsh Consolidated Fund account for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

¹ Except where otherwise specified all references to 'sections' relate to sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The 1988 Act has been amended in particular by Schedule 5 to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Schedule 12 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Non-Domestic Rating Act 1994 and the Local Government Act 2003.

² Except where otherwise specified all references to "paragraphs" relate to paragraphs of Schedule 8 to the 1988 Act

³ Billing Authorities are the County and County Borough Councils. Receiving Authorities are Billing Authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Pooling and Distribution of Non-Domestic Rates

3. The Welsh Ministers receive non-domestic rates collected from ratepayers by Billing Authorities or paid directly to the Welsh Ministers by ratepayers on the Central Rating List. The Welsh Ministers are required to distribute the contributions to Receiving Authorities in proportion to the resident adult population (aged 18 or over) in each administrative area (Local Government Finance Reports 2023-24, Nos 1 and 2). All non-domestic rates are thus pooled and distributed. The operation of the pool is governed by Schedule 8 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and regulations made under section 141.
4. Sums required for the making of payments by the Welsh Ministers for the distribution of non-domestic rates are to be charged on the Welsh Consolidated Fund. Welsh Ministers' receipts of non-domestic rates are to be surrendered to the Welsh Consolidated Fund (section 120 of the Government of Wales Act 2006). However, in order to avoid unnecessary cash transfers between the Welsh Government and Billing Authorities, only net payments are made. The account shows as items of account all the non-domestic rates entitlements and liabilities which have been discharged and not just the net cash sums received or paid out.

Receipts from Billing Authorities (receipts less costs of collection)

5. A Billing Authority's contribution into the non-domestic rates pool represents the amount which would be payable by ratepayers in the authority's area if the authority acted diligently, after allowing for certain prescribed deductions (e.g. costs of collection and recovery). A provisional calculation of the amount is made before the start of the financial year. The Welsh Ministers would make their own calculation if they believed a Billing Authority's calculation was unlikely to have been made in accordance with regulations (made under paragraph 4). A Billing Authority may recalculate its provisional contribution during the year if the amount payable by ratepayers falls below the level of the prescribed threshold. The Welsh Ministers then adjust the Billing Authority's payments accordingly.

Prior Year Adjustments

6. After the end of each financial year, each Billing Authority has to calculate its actual contribution, arrange for it to be audited and send a copy of the unaudited claim form to the Welsh Ministers. The appointed auditor then undertakes the audit and forwards the original claim, certified and audited to the Welsh Ministers. On receipt of the audited claim, any necessary adjustments are made to the Billing Authority's payments to accord with the calculation, either by refunding any sum overpaid or requiring additional payments from the authority as appropriate. The prior years' adjustments shown in this account relate to 2022-23 and previous years. The adjustments for 2023-24 will appear in the 2024-25 non-domestic rating account.
7. Any subsequent changes to the amount payable to the Billing Authority in the relevant financial year (which might occur, for example, because of appeals which may retrospectively alter rateable values) are treated as prior year adjustments to the pool contribution for a subsequent year.

Distribution of the Pool

8. An amount equivalent to the Welsh Ministers' estimate of the yield of non-domestic rates is distributed to Receiving Authorities each year. The sum to be distributed is calculated by the Welsh Ministers before the beginning of the financial year using estimates of the items to be credited and debited to the account in the year. This is the distributable amount. It is unlikely the aggregate of payments into the pool in any one year would exactly equal the distributable amount. Any surplus or deficit on the account is carried forward.

Review of 2023-24

9. In 2023-24, the Welsh Ministers received £1,084 million of non-domestic rates and paid £1,071 million to Receiving Authorities. The account for the year shows a surplus of contributions over amounts distributed of £13 million.
10. Receipts from Central List ratepayers during 2023-24 totalled £97 million.
11. The surplus of £8 million brought forward from 2022-23 has been added to the total surplus of £13 million for 2023-24. The surplus carried forward at 31 March 2024 is therefore £21 million. The surplus or deficit at the end of each year is taken into account in the calculations for the following year so that, over time, all the sums paid into the non-domestic rates pool are distributed to Receiving Authorities.

Non-Domestic Rates Developments

Non-domestic rates reform

12. A package of work is underway for reforming non-domestic rates in Wales, aligning with the Welsh Government commitment to a clear and stable tax devolution and to reforming local taxes in Wales.
13. On 29 March 2022, the (then) Minister for Finance and Local Government made a [statement](#) setting out the Welsh Government's plans for the reform of NDR during the current Senedd term. This built on the [Reforming Local Government Finance for Wales: Summary of Findings](#) that was published at the end of the previous Senedd term. A 12-week [consultation](#) on the reform of non-domestic rating in Wales was launched on 21 September 2022, seeking views on proposed improvements to the non-domestic rates system. The consultation closed on 14 December 2022 and a [summary of responses](#) was published on 9 February 2023.
14. The way forward was confirmed in an oral [statement](#) on 2 May 2023. The [Local Government Finance \(Wales\) Bill](#) was introduced in November 2023, and passed by the Senedd on 16 July 2024.

Non-domestic Rates Revaluation

15. Non-domestic properties are reassessed to determine an appropriate rateable value as part of an exercise called revaluation, carried out by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). A revaluation exercise has been carried out based on market conditions on 1 April 2021 and took effect from 1 April 2023. The NDR reform measures brought forward by the Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill introduce a three-yearly revaluation cycle going forward.
16. Revaluation is a revenue neutral exercise and is carried out to maintain fairness in the NDR system, by redistributing the total amount payable between ratepayers to reflect relative changes in the property market.
17. A transitional rates relief scheme was implemented from 1 April 2023 for both local and central list payers. The scheme provides all ratepayers whose liability is increasing by more than £300, as a consequence of revaluation, with transitional relief. Any such increase in non-domestic rates liability will be phased in over two years. All ratepayers will pay their full liability in 2025-26, in the final year prior to the next revaluation planned for 1 April 2026.

Auditors

18. The non-domestic rating account is audited by the Auditor General for Wales.

Dr Andrew Goodall
Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer
Welsh Government
27 November 2024

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCOUNT

19. Section 129(6) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 designates the Permanent Secretary as Principal Accounting Officer for the Welsh Ministers. The Principal Accounting Officer is responsible for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Welsh Government. This includes responsibility for Welsh Government-wide systems in finance and other matters, where these are appropriate, and for the management of the Welsh Ministers' net cash requirement.
20. Under Schedule 8 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Welsh Ministers are required to produce a non-domestic rating account. Under the Welsh Ministers (Transfer of Functions) Order 2018, the Welsh Ministers may keep the account in such form as they consider appropriate. Responsibility for preparing and signing the account rests with the Principal Accounting Officer. The account is required to properly present the receipts and payments for the financial year and the balance held at year end.
21. Under Section 133 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, the Principal Accounting Officer may designate other members of the Welsh Government staff as Additional Accounting Officers. The Principal Accounting Officer designated the Director General for Education and Public Services as Additional Accounting Officer for the Group which incorporates the management of the non-domestic rates budget and pool, including the preparation of this non-domestic rating account. The Director General, Covid Recovery and Local Government was the Additional Accounting Officer from 1 March 2022 until 31 December 2023. The Director General of the Public Services and Welsh Language Group was the Additional Accounting Officer from 1 January 2024 until 8 April 2024. From that point forward, the Director General and current Additional Accounting Officer became the Director General for Local Government, Housing, Climate Change and Rural Affairs. This designation does not detract from the Permanent Secretary's overall responsibility regarding the non-domestic rating account as Principal Accounting Officer.
22. The responsibilities of an Additional Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Additional Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records, for safeguarding the Welsh Government's assets, and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, are set out in the Additional Accounting Officers' Memorandum issued by the Principal Accounting Officer based on the guidance produced by HM Treasury.
23. The relationship between the Principal Accounting Officer and the Additional Accounting Officers, as described in paragraph 21, and their respective responsibilities are set out in a written agreement between the officials concerned.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

24. As Principal Accounting Officer I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Auditor General for Wales is aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Auditor General is unaware.

**Dr Andrew Goodall
Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer
Welsh Government
27 November 2024**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023-24

Scope of Responsibility

25. As Principal Accounting Officer, I am responsible for ensuring there is a high standard of probity in the management of public funds. In discharging this duty, I am responsible for maintaining a sound system of internal control which supports the achievement of the Welsh Government's policies, aims and objectives, facilitates the effective exercise of the Welsh Ministers' functions, and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.
26. The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Welsh Government's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks being realised and the processes to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.
27. The system of internal control was in place for the year ended 31 March 2024 and up to the date of approval of these accounts and accorded with HM Treasury guidance.

Financial Devolution of Non-Domestic Rates and Ministerial Responsibilities

28. The financial devolution of non-domestic rates to the Welsh Ministers occurred on 1 April 2015 (policy responsibilities have been devolved since 1999). The revenue from non-domestic rates available to the Welsh Government is now more directly linked to the performance of the Welsh economy. From 1 April 2015, non-domestic rates became Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) in the Welsh Government Budget (with a consequent reduction to the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)).
29. The Minister for Finance and Local Government was responsible for all non-domestic rates matters and the annual local government settlements from the Senedd elections in May 2021 until March 2024. From April 2024, following the appointment of the new First Minister for Wales, responsibility for non-domestic rates matters, including rates policy and the management of the non-domestic rates budget and pool, was assigned to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Cabinet Office. From April 2024 the Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government & Planning has responsibility for the distribution of the distributable amount through the annual local government settlements.

Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme

30. The Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme for Wales was extended to 2023-24 to support business recovery from the economic challenges which have affected them in recent years.
31. The Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme is fully funded by the Welsh Government and utilises consequential funding received from the UK

Government. As a result, the relief scheme will have no financial impact on the future distributable amount of non-domestic rates. The contributions to and sums paid from the Pool are not affected by the relief scheme.

The Risk and Control Framework

32. The non-domestic rating account is used to manage a significant component of the Welsh Government funding provided to local government in Wales and, in addition to the audit of this Account by the Auditor General for Wales, it is subject to a number of regulatory and internal control checks.
33. The distributable amounts of non-domestic rates for each financial year are based on estimates of the amounts which will be collected and are set out in the annual Local Government Finance Reports: [Local government revenue and capital settlement: final 2023 to 2024 | GOV.WALES](#). The reports are subject to Ministerial approval and are laid before the Senedd Cymru. Throughout the financial year, the Welsh Government must also set out adjustments to the legislative requirements for the collection of non-domestic rates. These adjustments are subject to Ministerial approval and must be laid before the Senedd.
34. Other specific controls which apply include:
 - The estimates of non-domestic rates to be distributed for the forthcoming year and forecasts for future years are provided, together with explanatory notes on sources and methodology, to the Office for Budget Responsibility for consideration and inclusion in its forecasts of UK public finances.
 - Throughout the financial year, the amounts of non-domestic rates collected by Billing Authorities are reported to the Welsh Government via formal submissions. These submissions, notably the NDR3 returns, are subject to checks undertaken by external auditors.
 - Income and Expenditure relating to non-domestic rates is monitored throughout the financial year as part of the month-end financial monitoring procedures employed by the Welsh Government.

Effectiveness of Internal Control

35. As Principal Accounting Officer, I am responsible for the effectiveness of the system of internal control. I take assurance from a wide spectrum of activities and am informed by the work of the internal auditors and also of the executive managers within the Welsh Government who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and for acting on comments made by the Auditor General for Wales in his reports. I have been advised on matters of risk and assurance by the Board and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
36. The Welsh Government has an Internal Audit Service which operates to standards defined in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. It undertakes a programme of audit work based upon an analysis of the major risks facing the

organisation as a whole. For the year covered by this Governance Statement, no pieces of audit work undertaken were specific to non-domestic rates but the processes and procedures in this area exist in a control environment which has been subject to internal audit and which has been judged to be effective.

37. The Head of Internal Audit submits regular reports to the Welsh Government Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) on progress in implementing their annual audit plan. There was also a separate Covid Recovery and Local Government ARAC in place which fed assurances to the main Welsh Government ARAC. The Internal Audit Service also prepares an annual independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of risk management, governance and control. I regularly meet members of the Service to discuss the current activity and specific internal control issues.
38. Throughout the year, the Internal Audit Service continued to coordinate its work with that of Audit Wales. A collaborative transparent approach is taken and liaison meetings are held to share information.
39. For the 2023-24 financial year the Director General for Covid Recovery and Local Government had Additional Accounting Officer responsibility until 31 December 2023 with the Director General of the Public Services and Welsh Language Group having responsibility from 1 January 2024 for the remainder of the reporting period up to 8 April 2024. From which point the Director General and current Additional Accounting Officer became the Director General for Local Government, Housing, Climate Change and Rural Affairs for the management of the non-domestic rates budget and pool, including the preparation of this Account.
40. The opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, set out in their annual assurance report, is that, overall, the Welsh Government can take reasonable assurance that arrangements to secure governance, risk management and internal control, within those areas under review, are suitably designed and applied effectively.
41. Drawing on the work of the Welsh Government ARAC, over the year, the Chair's Annual Report for 2023-24 provided overall reasonable assurance on the adequacy of audit arrangements for the Welsh Government and also on the arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control for the Welsh Government, based on the range of assurances presented to the Committee and the information provided to it by officials.
42. Based on my review of internal controls and all other information available to me, I am satisfied that the non-domestic rating controls in place during the year were appropriate.

Information Governance

43. As Principal Accounting Officer, I am responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place to comply with the core set of mandatory minimum measures to protect information in UK Government Departments and Devolved Administrations. These require me to assess our risk and ensure appropriate mitigation strategies are in place.

44. Information risk management continues to have a high priority throughout the Welsh Government, featuring in departmental risk registers. There were no instances of reported information losses which specifically relate to the non-domestic rating account.
45. Where third parties handle our information, it is vital we tell them how to do so as we often retain legal liability for that information even if it is the third party which releases the information in error. Information assurance clauses which clearly specify how Welsh Government information must be handled are included as a standard requirement in contracts.

Dr Andrew Goodall
Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer
Welsh Government
27 November 2024

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES TO THE SENEDD

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales) for the year ended 31 March 2024 under the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

These comprise the Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Balances and the related notes, including the material accounting policies. These financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis under Schedule 8 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the protocol made thereunder by Welsh Ministers.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- properly present the balances, receipts and payments of the Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales) for the year ended 31 March 2024; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Schedule 8 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the protocol made thereunder by Welsh Ministers.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects:

- the receipts and payments recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Senedd; and
- the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis of opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate.

My staff and I are independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinions.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales) other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Principal Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information in the Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales). My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other

information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit the information given in the Foreword for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Foreword has been prepared in accordance with the protocol issued by Welsh Ministers.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the body and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Governance statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

Responsibilities of the Principal Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Principal Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Principal Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, foreword and governance statement in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the protocol issued by Welsh Ministers there under and for such internal control and accounting records, as the Principal Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and for the regularity of transactions.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted

in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance, including consideration of Welsh Government's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.
- Obtaining an understanding of Welsh Government's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that the Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales) operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Welsh Government's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the receipts and payments recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the

purposes intended by the Senedd and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I am also responsible for expressing an opinion on whether the receipts and payments have been applied to the purposes intended by the Senedd.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
29 November 2024

1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

NON-DOMESTIC RATING ACCOUNT (WALES)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2023-24 £000	2022-23 £000
Receipts			
Contributions from Billing Authorities	2	985,894	1,034,229
Contributions from Central List Ratepayers	7	96,927	101,438
Gross Additional Receipts as a result of final recalculations for 2022-23 and previous years	4	847	4,650
Total Receipts		1,083,668	1,140,317
Payments			
Sums paid to Receiving Authorities as the Distributable Amounts	5	1,022,000	1,135,000
Sums paid to Billing Authorities as a result of the final recalculations for 2022-23 and previous years	4	48,639	48,761
Sums paid to Central List Ratepayers as a result of final recalculations		0	0
Total Distributions		1,070,639	1,183,761
Surplus/(Deficit) of contributions over amounts distributed for the year		13,029	(43,444)

Statement of Balances

	2023-24 £000	2022-23 £000
Balance at 1 April	8,043	51,487
Surplus/(Deficit) of contributions over amounts distributed for the year	13,029	(43,444)
Balance at 31 March	21,072	8,043

**Dr Andrew Goodall
Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer
Welsh Government
27 November 2024**

The following notes form part of this Account.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNT

- 1 Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Welsh Ministers are required to prepare an account, to be called a Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales), for each financial year in such form as the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate. The account is prepared on a cash basis and must properly present the receipts and payments for the financial year and the balance held at the end of the year. The Non-Domestic Rating Account (Wales) is audited by the Auditor General for Wales in accordance with Paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 8 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- 2 Billing Authorities are required to calculate their non-domestic rates contribution for the year before it begins on the basis of certain prescribed assumptions (the provisional amount: paragraph 5(2) and to make their contribution in regular instalments during the year (paragraph 5(5)). The contributions calculated by Billing Authorities for 2023-24 totalled £986 million.
- 3 After the year end, the contribution is recalculated on the basis of outturn information (paragraph 5(6)) and adjustment payments made to or by Billing Authorities as appropriate.
- 4 The outturn adjustments made comprised receipts from Billing Authorities of £0.8 million and payments made to Billing Authorities of £48.6 million. These were surrendered and charged to the Welsh Consolidated Fund.
- 5 The Welsh Ministers paid out the distributable amount of £1,022 million for 2023-24, as set out in the Local Government Finance Reports for 2023-24 (as amended). The distributable amount was paid to Receiving Authorities in proportion to their resident adult populations.
- 6 Whilst the account shows the full amount of contributions from Billing Authorities and the distributable amount, in practice these items are netted off against each other and only net payments are made. This avoids unnecessary cash transfers between the Welsh Ministers and Billing Authorities.
- 7 As at 31 March 2024, the Central List Receipts Account showed a balance of nil, the total receipts of £96.9 million for the year having been surrendered to the Welsh Consolidated Fund. The Central List Payments Account also showed a nil balance.
- 8 Surpluses at the end of the year are carried forward by debiting the account for the year and crediting the following year's account. Deficits at the end of the year are carried forward to the following year by crediting the current year's account and debiting the following years. This is to ensure that, when years are taken together, all non-domestic rates paid to the pool are equivalent to the sums distributed to Receiving Authorities.