



UNITED KINGDOM – December 2023

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UK GENERAL

Sadiq Khan announces plan to increase council tax by £37.26 for band D homes in London

The Mayor of London has announced that a Band D property will see a £37.26 increase in Council Tax next year. This article hears from the mayor in relation to the shortfall from government funding that London is experiencing.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Council tax to increase by £37.26 for band D homes in London under Sadiq Khan proposal \(gbnews.com\)](https://www.gbnews.com/news/politics/sadiq-khan-council-tax-increase)

Pinewood, Warner, Sky Sound Alarm Over “Studio Tax” Threat To UK Status As Hollywood Rival

Major film and TV studios are discussing the heavy increases in Rateable Values for the studios in the 2023 Revaluation with the Valuation Office. This article reports that the studios are now involving the government and stating that the industry will become unviable in the UK, and there will be no new development unless the government takes action.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Pinewood, Warner Bros, Sky Sound Alarm Over Studio Tax – Deadline](https://www.gbnews.com/news/entertainment/pinewood-warner-bros-sky-sound-alarm-over-studio-tax-deadline)

International Property Tax Institute

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Politicians don't listen to us, say store bosses

The UK's biggest store chains are calling on the government for help with business rates and shoplifting, claiming that the government neither "understand nor value" the importance of the retail sector. This article hears from chief executives of leading retail stores about the problems hitting their sector.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Politicians don't listen to us, say store bosses | This is Money](#)

Hopes grow that British TV and film industry will strike deal to cut punishing business rates

This article looks at the detail of the increases in business rates that are being faced by newly built studios in the UK, and comments on the state of negotiations with the Valuation Office Agency.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Hopes grow that British TV and film industry will strike deal to cut punishing business rates | This is Money](#)

NORTHERN IRELAND

Footfall slipped across Northern Ireland in November as cost crisis hit consumer activity

Footfall data commissioned by the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium (NIRC) has shown that activity at shopping centres is down an average of 5% from November 2022 figures, with 7.6% in Belfast. This article hears calls for a freeze in the regional rate to improve the position of Northern Ireland in comparison to retail property taxes in the rest of the UK.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Footfall slipped across Northern Ireland in November as cost crisis hit consumer activity - The Irish News](#)

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