

Revaluation 2026

Commercial Properties Committee

Practice Note 3

Valuation of Large Shops & Department Stores

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Practice Note provides guidance with regard to Large Shops and Department Stores. It does not apply to standard shops, retail warehouses or supermarkets / superstores which should continue to be zoned or valued on an overall basis as appropriate.

2.0 Identification of Large Shops/Department Stores

- 2.1 There is no fixed starting point in terms of size that dictates when a “standard” shop becomes a “large” shop. Frequently this decision will depend upon the particular size and style of the unit in comparison with its neighbouring properties. Supply and demand conditions can also have an effect.
- 2.2 Where no local evidence exists it is suggested that stores which are typically more than 5 times the norm size of neighbouring shops (in terms of reduced area) may be considered for treatment as a large shop. This will generally include stores that are over 1,400m² Gross Internal Area (GIA).
- 2.3 In city centres the standard size of retail units is much larger and units of up to 4,500m² GIA or more may continue to be zoned.
- 2.4 Within the overall category of large shops the following sub categories may be identified:

2.4.1 Large Shops

Large shops generally range from 1,400m² GIA to 3,500m² GIA. Frequently these will be located in high streets or covered shopping centres. In covered shopping centres large shops may be used in a secondary anchor role and are strategically placed to influence the pedestrian flow between the main anchor units.

2.4.2 Large Town Centre Stores/Small Department Stores

Large town centre stores/small department stores may range from 3,500m² GIA to 12,000m² GIA. Larger units may display a wider range of goods including beauty, fashion, household items and, in some cases, furniture and food. Some may concentrate on fashion. Many will have one or more restaurants or cafes. In shopping centres these stores may act as the main anchor tenant.

2.4.3 Large Department Stores

There are a limited number of large department stores in Scotland in excess of 12,000m² GIA. They tend to have several floors and offer a range of goods which may include, beauty, fashion, home, technology and food. They may also include a number of cafes and restaurants and offer other services such as opticians, beauty treatments, personal styling, home design and tech support. The precise location of these units is not always critical because they can be considered to be an attraction in their own right.

3.0 Basis of Valuation

- 3.1 This category of subject should be valued by application of the comparative principle using rates/m² derived from the rentals of units of a similar size and character.

4.0 Method of Measurement

- 4.1 Areas should be calculated on a GIA.

5.0 Valuation

- 5.1 In determining the comparisons to be used, in the absence of local evidence, careful consideration should be given to the following points:

5.1.1 Location

Wherever possible comparison should be made with locations that are similar in terms of the size and population of the surrounding catchment area. Consideration should also be given to the relative size of the main shopping area, the size of shops in the area and the mix and number of multiple traders.

The prime zone A rate for the town/city may provide a useful guide to the hierarchy expected but variations in department store rates will not necessarily vary in direct proportion to changes in zone A rates.

Locations may be considered in the following groups.

- Regional Shopping Centres
- City/Major Town Centres/Other Shopping Centres

- Smaller Town Centres

Within these locations it may be necessary to make adjustments to reflect the particular situation of the property.

5.1.2 Age and Character of the Store

In addition, wherever possible comparison should be made with units that are similar in age and character.

5.1.3 Fitting Out

For subjects which are let on a shell basis, some addition may be made to the basic rate to reflect the cost of the fit out.

5.1.4 Storey

Comparison should be made between stores which have accommodation spread over a similar number of storeys and therefore no adjustment for storey will normally be necessary. In this respect the difference between a store spread over three floors compared to one spread over four or five floors is not considered to be significant.

However, the difference between a wholly ground floor unit and one spread over two or three floors is usually considered to be significant. Where it is necessary to make such a comparison a check valuation should be undertaken on a factorised basis using the following factors:

	Up/Down <u>Escalators</u>	Up only <u>Escalator</u>	Stair/ <u>Lift</u>
Ground Floor:	1.0	1.0	1.0
First Floor:	1.0	0.85	0.7
Second Floor:	0.8	0.65	0.6
Third Floor and above:	0.6	0.45	0.4
Basement:	0.9	0.75 (down only)	0.65

5.1.5 Size

Wherever possible comparison should be made between units that are of a similar size. Therefore, no explicit adjustment for quantum should be made. In situations where no direct comparison can be made careful consideration should be applied as increased size is not necessarily a factor which should result in a lower level of rental value.

5.2 Plant and Machinery

Any plant in these subjects which is rateable in terms of the Valuation for Rating (Plant & Machinery) (Scotland) Regulations 2000, as amended, should be valued by reference to the Rating Cost Guide Scotland.

6.0 Car Parking

- 6.1 Large shops and department stores are generally located in town/city centres or in covered shopping malls and do not have dedicated parking. Where an individual store does benefit from dedicated parking, and it is deemed to be Unum quid with the store, an addition should be made in line with prevailing levels of value.