

Acme Cafe

| Risk Report 11 Jan 2026

Several significant developments require your attention this month:

- **Blank Street Coffee opening 200m away in March 2026 - well-funded US chain with aggressive expansion**
- **Your main coffee supplier Origin Coffee has a Companies House strike-off warning - secure alternative supplier**
- **Competitor 'The Daily Grind' poached your former head barista and is advertising your signature drinks**

Overall risk score: **4/10** 

How do we know?

We've checked 342 online sources

Your Competitors

78 sources

New competitor openings

- ◉ Stoke Newington cafe landscape
- ◉ Hackney Council Planning Applications
- ◉ Companies House registrations

Existing competitors

- ◉ Local business directories & news
- ◉ Competitor social media monitoring

Regulatory Changes

38 sources

- ◉ Food Standards Agency inspection records
- ◉ Hackney Council licensing database
- ◉ April 2025 wage/tax legislative changes [+ 1 more](#)

Reputation & Reviews

94 sources

Ratings web-sites

- ◉ Google, TripAdvisor, Yelp reviews
- ◉ Instagram and social media mentions
- ◉ Food blogger coverage

Blogs, news, social media

- ◉ Customer review aggregation
- ◉ Sentiment trend analysis

Supplier Risks

45 sources

- ◉ Origin Coffee company research
- ◉ E5 Bakehouse supplier analysis
- ◉ Global arabica coffee price trends [+ 1 more](#)

Market Conditions

52 sources

Hackney footfall

- ◉ Hackney demographic data
- ◉ London rental and housing costs
- ◉ UK cafe transaction trends

London prospects

- ◉ Church Street footfall analysis

Workforce Risks

35 sources

- ◉ London hospitality turnover statistics
- ◉ Hackney barista job posting trends
- ◉ Glassdoor employer reviews [+ 1 more](#)

Risks Overview



Immediate risks

- 1

Blank Street Coffee opening 200m away in March
Planning application 2025/4892 approved for 42 Church Street - 200m from your location
- 3

The Daily Grind hired your former head barista
Marcus Chen (your head barista until November 2025) now working at The Daily Grind

What can you do about this?

- Emphasise your unique offerings they can't match: brunch menu, community events, outdoor seating
- Consider loyalty programme to lock in regulars before they open
- Your quality positioning (Origin Coffee, E5 Bakehouse) justifies premium pricing - lean into this

Areas to watch

- 2

Origin Coffee has Companies House strike-off warning
ORIGIN COFFEE LTD (08472915) has 'Active - Proposal to strike off' status
- 4

Recent negative review trend on Google
Google rating dropped from 4.6 to 4.3 in past 3 months
5 one-star reviews in December 2025 - unusual spike
- 5

Three competitors actively hiring baristas nearby
The Daily Grind: 2 barista positions, £13.50/hour (above your £12.50)
Notes Coffee: Kitchen manager role, £32k salary
- 6

FSA rating dropped to 4 - improvement needed
FSA rating: 4/5 (Good) - inspected 15 November 2025
Previous rating was 5/5 - you've dropped a level

What can you do about this?

- Contact Origin directly to understand their situation
- Immediately trial alternative roasters: Square Mile, Assembly, Caravan

→ More

New Competitors Check



**2 new cafe openings
detected within 0.3 miles
- one is a major threat**

We searched for new cafe or coffee shop openings in Stoke Newington in:

1. Hackney Council Planning Portal: 2 relevant applications found in past 6 months

- A3/E class use applications in N16 postcode
- Change of use applications for retail to cafe [see all](#)

2. Companies House & Business Registrations: KOKO'S KITCHEN LTD (15201847) - Incorporated Dec 2025

- New cafe/coffee company registrations in Hackney
- BLANK STREET UK LTD (14892301) - Active [see all](#)

3. Social Media & Local News: Local community Facebook groups

- Hackney Gazette business announcements
- Instagram location tags for N16 [see all](#)

New Competitors Detected

We've detected **2 new competitors** opening in your area. [\(add/remove from watchlist\)](#)

Blank Street Coffee

High Threat

Coffee shop

Address: 42 Church Street, N16 0AP

Distance: 200m

Opening: March 2026

VC-backed US chain with \$120M funding. 60+ UK locations. Small footprint, low prices, app-first model. Planning application 2025/4892 approved November 2025. Fit-out in progress.

Source: Hackney Council Planning Portal, Companies House

Koko's Kitchen

Medium Threat

Brunch cafe

Address: 78 Stoke Newington High Street, N16 7PA

Distance: 0.4 miles

Opening: April 2026

Independent opening by former Caravan head chef. Focus on all-day brunch and natural wines. Instagram pre-launch with 2,400 followers. Different positioning but overlapping brunch customers.

Source: Instagram @kokoskitchenldn, Planning application 2025/5201

[→ See all new competitors in full report](#)

Existing Competitors Overview

Modify/specify competitors →	Relevance	Price	Reputation	Overall threat
<div>The Daily Grind</div> <div>Specialty coffee shop at 15 Church Street. Recently hir...</div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Very similar</div><div>Specialty cafe, same street, 150m away</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Similar pricing</div><div>Flat white £3.40, brunch £12-18</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Excellent</div><div>4.5/5 Google (567 reviews), trending up</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>High threat</div><div>Same street, better rating, poached your staff</div></div>
<div>Notes Coffee</div> <div>Established specialty roaster cafe at 23 Stoke Newington...</div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Similar</div><div>Specialty coffee, 0.3 miles, different vibe</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Similar pricing</div><div>Flat white £3.60, limited food</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Very Good</div><div>4.4/5 Google (423 reviews)</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Medium threat</div><div>Different positioning - coffee purists</div></div>
<div>Violet Cakes</div> <div>Award-winning bakery and cafe at 47 Wilton Way....</div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Moderate overlap</div><div>Bakery cafe, 0.5 miles, destination business</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Higher pricing</div><div>Cinnamon bun £5.50, premium positioning</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Excellent</div><div>4.6/5 Google (1,247 reviews), cookbook author</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Low threat</div><div>Different positioning - destination bakery</div></div>
<div>Summary</div>	<div>Origin Coffee single-origin espresso - specialty positioning</div>	<div>Premium pricing (£10-20 brunch range, flat white £3.50). Positioned above...</div>	<div>Instagram: @acmecafeldn - 8,400 followers, strong engagement</div>	<div>Blank Street opening with 20% lower prices - will attract price-sensitive...</div>

	Relevance	Price	Reputation	Overall threat
The Daily Grind Specialty coffee shop at 15 Church Street. Recently hired your former hea...	●●●●● Very similar Specialty cafe, same street, 150m away	●●●○○ Similar pricing Flat white £3.40, brunch £12-18	●●●●●● Excellent 4.5/5 Google (567 reviews), trending up	●●●●●● High threat Same street, better rating, poached your staff

Strengths

- Higher Google rating (4.5 vs your 4.3)
- Now has your former head barista with your recipes
- Aggressive Instagram marketing - 12k followers
- Recently renovated with larger seating capacity

Weaknesses

- No outdoor seating - your terrace is unique
- Doesn't do evening events - you own that space
- Less established community relationships
- Higher rent location - margin pressure

Threats

Immediate risks

Copying your signature dishes

→ [Details](#)

Actively recruiting your staff

→ [Details](#)

Areas to watch

Monitor their menu for more copies

→ [Details](#)

Track staff approaches

→ [Details](#)

Opportunities

- Your terrace gives you summer advantage
- Your events programme builds loyalty they can't match
- Innovate menu faster - stay ahead of copying

	Relevance	Price	Reputation	Overall threat
Notes Coffee Established specialty roaster cafe at 23 Stoke Newington Road. Own-roasted...	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Similar Specialty coffee, 0.3 miles, different vibe	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Similar pricing Flat white £3.60, limited food	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Very Good 4.4/5 Google (423 reviews)	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Medium threat Different positioning - coffee purists

Strengths

- Own roastery - unique selling point
- Coffee purist reputation - serious crowd
- Laptop-friendly - captures remote workers
- Wholesale business provides stability

Weaknesses

- Limited food menu - no brunch competition
- No outdoor space
- Serious vibe less family-friendly
- No evening programme

Threats

Immediate risks

Hiring kitchen manager - expanding food?

→ [Details](#)

Areas to watch

Monitor food menu expansion

→ [Details](#)

Opportunities

- You serve different customer occasions
- Could partner for their beans if Origin fails
- Your families/brunch crowd is distinct

	Relevance	Price	Reputation	Overall threat
Violet Cakes Award-winning bakery and cafe at 47 Wilton Way. Famous for cinnamon bun...	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Moderate overlap Bakery cafe, 0.5 miles, destination business	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Higher pricing Cinnamon bun £5.50, premium positioning	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Excellent 4.6/5 Google (1,247 reviews), cookbook author	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Low threat Different positioning - destination bakery

Strengths

- Celebrity chef owner - media coverage
- Destination business - people travel for it
- Cookbook published - brand authority
- Queue out the door reputation

Weaknesses

- Always crowded - people want alternatives
- Limited savoury food options
- Weekend-only peak - less everyday
- No evening hours

Opportunities

- Capture overflow when they're too busy
- Your savory brunch menu differentiates
- Their success proves demand for quality

Competitor Moves

Significant competitor activity this month. Blank Street opening is the headline threat. The Daily Grind's staff poaching and menu copying is immediate concern. Notes Coffee may be expanding food offering.

Act Now

1 Blank Street Coffee construction started

Fit-out in progress at 42 Church Street (200m away). Planning application 2025/4892 approved November. Signage permits filed. Opening expected March 2026. Pre-opening recruitment at £14/hour.

Spotted: January 2026

2 Daily Grind copying your signature dishes

Your former head barista Marcus Chen now 'Head of Coffee' at The Daily Grind. They've introduced 'Turkish Eggs Benedict' identical to your signature. Instagram shows your latte art styles. Actively ma...

Spotted: December 2025

Monitor

1 Daily Grind recruiting your staff

Job postings at £13.50/hour (£1 above your rate). Two of your part-time staff reportedly approached. Expanding team ahead of perceived opportunity when Blank Street diverts your customers.

Spotted: January 2026

2 Notes Coffee hiring Kitchen Manager

Job posting for Kitchen Manager at £32k suggests they may be expanding food offering. Currently coffee-focused with limited food. Could become more direct brunch competitor.

Spotted: January 2026

FYI

1 Koko's Kitchen opening Spring 2026

New independent brunch cafe opening 0.4 miles away in April. Former Caravan head chef. Different positioning (natural wines, all-day brunch) but overlapping customers. Instagram @kokoskitchenldn has 2...

Spotted: December 2025

Reputation & Reviews

Strong review volume (892 Google reviews) but concerning recent decline from 4.6 to 4.3 rating. December 2025 saw 5 one-star reviews - unusual spike. Main issues: weekend service speed and order accuracy. TripAdvisor remains strong at 4.5/5. Owner is actively responding to reviews.



Google

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4.3/5 ↓

892 reviews



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Used to love this place but last two visits have been disappointing. Waited 25 minutes for a flat white on Saturday...

Posted by Sarah M (Local Guide)

December 2025

Next >



TripAdvisor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4.5/5 →

234 reviews



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Gorgeous cafe with the best terrace in Stokey. The Turkish eggs are incredible and the sourdough toast is perfect. Yes...

Posted by FoodieExplorer2024

November 2025

Next >



Facebook

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4.7/5 →

156 reviews



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Love the vinyl nights! Great community space and the food is always spot on. My dog loves it here too.

Posted by Community member

December 2025

Next >



Yelp

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4.0/5 →

89 reviews



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Good coffee, nice vibe, but getting expensive. £3.50 for a flat white is pushing it. The cinnamon roll was...

Posted by Mike R.

October 2025

Next >

Social Media

Strong Instagram presence with 8,400 followers and high engagement. Facebook community of 2,100 active for event promotion. Good visual content strategy around food and events. Competitor The Daily Grind has overtaken you on Instagram (12k vs 8.4k).



Instagram
@acmecafeldn

Good

8.4K

4-5 posts per week

Followers

Frequency

- Food photography
- Terrace shots
- Vinyl nights
- Dog visitors
- Community events

Strong visual identity and engaged community. Reels performing well. Consider increasing posting frequency to compete with Daily Grind's more aggressive strategy.



Facebook
Acme Cafe London

Good

2.1K

2-3 posts per week

Followers

Frequency

- Event announcements
- Community news
- Menu updates

Effective for event promotion and reaching older demographic. Vinyl night events consistently get 50+ RSVPs. Continue using for community building.



TikTok
Not present

Not Present

—

—

Followers

Frequency

Not yet on TikTok. Given your photogenic food and events, this is an opportunity. Blank Street has strong TikTok presence - consider establishing before they open.

Praise

We've analysed 1,371 reviews across platforms and identified the top themes that customers consistently praise about Acme Cafe.

The Terrace is Your Crown Jewel

👍 312 mentions

Your covered outdoor terrace is mentioned in 23% of all positive reviews. Customers describe it as 'the best outdoor space in Stokey', 'perfect for sunny mornings', and 'reason enough to visit'. No competitor has comparable outdoor seating.

★★★★★

The terrace here is unbeatable. Spent a gorgeous Sunday morning with coffee, eggs, and the papers. Feels like you're on holiday in your own...

Posted by James T September 2025

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Turkish Eggs Signature Dish

👍 198 mentions

Your Turkish eggs (cilbir) are consistently praised as the best in the area. They've become synonymous with your brand - though now being copied by The Daily Grind.

★★★★★

The Turkish eggs are absolutely incredible - perfectly poached, the yoghurt is garlicky and creamy, and the chilli butter is addictive. Best...

Posted by Elena K (Local Guide) October 2025

Next >

Community Events & Vinyl Nights

👍 145 mentions

Your weekly vinyl nights and community events create loyalty that competitors can't replicate. Customers describe Acme as 'more than a cafe' and 'the heart of the community'.

★★★★★

The Thursday vinyl nights are the highlight of my week. Great tunes, lovely people, excellent natural wines. This place really understands community.

Posted by Mark D November 2025

Next >

→ See all themes in full report

Complaints

We've identified 3 recurring complaint themes that require attention. Weekend service is the critical issue driving your rating decline.

Weekend Service Speed

⚠️ 47 mentions

Wait times of 20-30+ minutes during Saturday/Sunday brunch are driving negative reviews. This appears to be a staffing or process issue at peak times, not a one-off problem.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Waited 25 minutes for a flat white on Saturday morning, and when it came it was lukewarm. Staff seemed stressed and disorganised.

Posted by Sarah M December 2025

Next >

Order Accuracy Issues

⚠️ 23 mentions

Multiple reviews mention wrong orders or missing items. This suggests a communication breakdown between front-of-house and kitchen during busy periods.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Got charged for avocado that never appeared on my toast. When I pointed it out, had to wait another 10 minutes. Not ideal when you're trying to get to work.

Posted by David L December 2025

Next >

Price Increases Noticed

⚠️ 18 mentions

Several reviews mention prices increasing. While your pricing is in line with competitors, customers are noticing and commenting. May affect price-sensitive customers when Blank Street opens.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Love this place but it's getting expensive. £3.50 for a flat white, £14 for eggs - it adds up. Starting to feel like a treat rather than a regular.

Posted by Anonymous November 2025

Next >

→ See all themes in full report

Reputation Action Plan

Fix Service Issues Immediately

Weekend Staffing Review

Immediate 47 reviews mention weekend wait times
- this is your critical issue

Order Accuracy System

High 23 reviews mention wrong orders -
communication breakdown

Recover Google Rating

Address Negative Reviews

Immediate 5 one-star reviews in December alone -
respond and recover

- Personal outreach to recent negative reviewers - offer to make it right
- Continue responding to all reviews within 24 hours
- When issues are fixed, ask complainants to update reviews

Encourage Positive Reviews

High Balance recent negatives with fresh positive reviews

- QR code on receipts linking to Google reviews
- Train staff to ask satisfied customers to review
- Post-event email to vinyl night attendees

Instagram Community Building

Medium 8,400 followers is good - leverage for reputation recovery

- [Share positive customer stories to Instagram](#)
- [User-generated content reposts build community](#)

Suppliers

We've researched [\(add/remove\)](#) your key suppliers and identified significant supply chain risks.

Origin Coffee High Risk

Years operating: 12 years

Last accounts: [31 March 2024](#)

Reputation: 4.4★ (324 reviews) Google: 4.5★ TripAdvisor: 4.2★

Well-regarded specialty roaster but recent B2B complaints about delivery reliability and communication.

- ✓ No insolvency indicators
- ✓ No administration notices

Companies House Strike-Off Warning

Active proposal to strike off - investigate immediately

ORIGIN COFFEE LTD (08472915) has 'Active - Proposal to strike off' status. Confirmation statement overdue since September 2025. This could indicate administrative oversight or deeper financial issues.

Single Source Dependency

You rely 100% on Origin for espresso

If Origin fails or can't deliver, you have no backup supplier. Other cafes reporting delayed deliveries. Consider dual-sourcing immediately.

E5 Bakehouse Low Risk

Years operating: 14 years

Last accounts: [31 December 2024](#)

Reputation: 4.6★ (892 reviews) Google: 4.7★ TripAdvisor: 4.4★

Highly regarded artisan bakery. Strong B2B reputation. Reliable supplier to many Hackney cafes.

- ✓ No insolvency indicators
- ✓ No administration notices
- ✓ No late filing penalties

E5 Bakehouse is Financially Healthy

Stable supplier with no concerns

Company 07234561 is Active with no concerning filings. Strong reputation, expanding production capacity. Reliable partner.

Recent Price Increase

15% wholesale increase December 2025

E5 increased wholesale prices by 15% citing flour and energy costs. Industry-wide pressure. May need to pass some cost to customers or absorb margin impact.

UK Supply Chain Pressures

Significant cost pressures across coffee and bakery inputs. Coffee at 47-year highs. Energy costs elevated. Labour costs increased April 2025. All competitors face same pressures - pricing power exists if communicated well.

Coffee Prices (At Historic Highs)

- Arabica coffee at \$4.20/lb in January 2026 - highest since 1977
- Up 85% from January 2024 levels
- Brazil drought and Vietnam supply issues causing persistent shortage
- Your wholesale cost increased from £14/kg to £22/kg (+57%)
- Flat white margin dropped from 72% to 58%

Bakery Inputs (Flour, Butter Rising)

- UK bread flour up 8% in 2025
- Butter prices up 12% year-on-year
- E5 Bakehouse increased wholesale prices 15% in December
- Pastry margins under pressure across industry

Labour Costs (April 2025 Impact)

- National Living Wage: £12.21/hour effective April 1, 2025 (+6.7%)
- Your average wage £12.50/hour - now barely above minimum
- Competitors paying up to £14/hour - wage pressure
- April 2026: Further increase to £12.71/hour expected

Workforce Risks

Industry Context

Cafe Turnover (London): 32% annually

- Replacement cost: £3,500-5,000
- Time to hire: 6-8 weeks

Current Wages:

- Barista: £12.50/hour
- Cafe Manager: £30k annually

 **April 2026 Wage Increase:**
National Living Wage: £12.21 → £12.71 expected

Local hiring activity:

- **23 barista jobs** within 1 mile (openings in The Daily Grind (2), Notes Coffee (1), Blank Street (3))

[→ Full details](#)

Your Employer Reputation

Glassdoor: 3.2★ (8 reviews)

Indeed: 3.5★ (4 reviews)

Local Rent Market

Church Street commercial rents have softened slightly due to vacancy increases. Current range £45-65 per sq ft. Rising vacancy (15%) gives tenants more negotiating leverage. However, Blank Street choosing to open her...

CURRENT MARKET RATE

£45-65 per sq ft

Church Street, Stoke Newington N16

Rightmove, Zoopla Commercial, local agents
(January 2026)

MARKET TREND

→ -2%

2025

Hackney Commercial Property Report 2025

NEARBY VACANCIES

4 units

within 200m of Church Street

High vacancy gives lease renewal leverage -
landlords want to avoid more voids

What This Means For You

- ✓

Strong negotiating position for lease renewal

15% vacancy on Church Street plus 3 independents closed in 2025. Your landlord will want to keep a successful tenant. Use this leverage at renewal.
- i

Blank Street opening signals external confidence

Despite vacancy, Blank Street (sophisticated property team) chose Church Street. They see value in the location. Your concerns about footfall may be...
- !

Business rates revaluation April 2026

New RVs based on April 2024 rental evidence. Church Street rents were higher then than now. Your RV may increase - check draft valuation and challenge if...

Financial Risks

Cost pressures from all directions: coffee +57%, labour +6.7%, bakery supplies +15%, business rates revaluation coming. Margins squeezed. However, RHL relief and new permanent lower multipliers from April 2026 provide some offset. Interest rates falling.

Business Rates

CURRENT RELIEF

40% off

Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Relief • Cap: £110,000 per business

1 April 2026 2026 Revaluation takes effect

Hackney Council Relief

SMALL BUSINESS RATES RELIEF

Properties with RV under £15,000

Up to 100% relief for RV under £12,000

From April 2026, permanent lower RHL multipliers replace annual relief scheme.

Insurance

Rising

Hospitality insurance premiums up 15-25% in 2025

Buildings insurance particularly affected. Public liability stable. Shop around at renewal.

Review insurance at renewal. Bundle policies where possible. Terrace coverage specifically important.

Interest Rates

↓ Falling

BANK OF ENGLAND

3.75%

As of December 2025

FORECAST END 2026

3.00-3.25%

Local Economic Conditions

Mixed

Stoke Newington remains affluent but footfall is declining as remote work reduces weekday traffic. Church Street vacancy rate at 15% is concerning. Rising housing costs squeeze discretionary spending. Your terrace and events help capture weekend trade which is more resilient.

Church Street Footfall Declining

Negative

- 12% footfall decline year-on-year (Hackney Council data)
- Tuesday-Thursday worst affected (-18%)
- Weekends more resilient (-5%)
- Remote work patterns reducing weekday trade
- Three independents on Church Street closed in 2025

Commercial Vacancy Rising

Negative

- Church Street vacancy rate now 15%
- Four empty units within 200m of your location
- Landlords more willing to negotiate - potential lease opportunity
- However, Blank Street chose to open here - they see opportunity

Housing Costs Squeezing Customers

Negative

- Hackney average rent: £2,567/month (October 2025)
- Up 6.5% year-on-year - above London average
- House prices averaging £685,000 in Stoke Newington
- Cost pressures reducing discretionary cafe spending
- Price sensitivity increasing - Blank Street's low prices will appeal

Regulatory & Compliance

FSA rating dropped to 4/5 from previous 5/5 - needs attention. Temperature logs and equipment maintenance flagged. April 2025 wage increases in effect. April 2026 business rates revaluation coming.

Food Safety Rating Declined

- FSA rating: 4/5 (Good) - inspected 15 November 2025
- Previous inspection: 5/5 (Very Good) - dropped one level
- Hygienic food handling: Good
- Cleanliness and condition: Improvement necessary
- Management of food safety: Good
- Inspector notes: 'Temperature logs incomplete, some equipment needs repair'

April 2025 Labour Cost Increases (NOW IN EFFECT)

- National Living Wage: £12.21/hour (up 6.7% from £11.44)
- Your £12.50/hour rate now barely above minimum
- April 2026: Further increase to £12.71/hour expected
- May need to increase wages to remain competitive

Business Rates Revaluation (April 2026)

- New rateable values based on April 2024 rental evidence
- Church Street rents have increased - likely RV increase
- Check draft RV when published and challenge if wrong
- New permanent RHL lower multipliers benefit cafes
- Deadline to challenge: 31 March 2026

