

CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF DOMESTIC RATING DATA SHARING

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – JUNE 2008

QUESTIONS IN DOCUMENT

	QUESTIONS	PROPOSED ANSWERS
	<u>Section 1 Introduction</u>	
1.	Do you agree that increased data sharing powers can help improve take up of the various tax reliefs?	YES - By identifying those most likely to qualify for relief and writing to the individuals to inform them of any relief they may be eligible to. This will ensure that more of those actually entitled to a relief are aware and subsequently will make a claim.
2.	Do you agree that these new measures will make data held by Government more secure?	YES – By following the Guidelines from the Office of the Information Commissioner and acting on the data protection action plans and policy statements produced following the review of Northern Ireland Government Departments and implementing appropriate training, this should make data held more secure.
3.	Is there anything else you would like to see done?	None noted.
	<u>Section 2 Data Sharing – Rate Reliefs – Take Up Issues</u>	
	<u>Bearing in mind that the aim is to increase uptake</u>	
4.	Are you happy for data to be shared in this way for the purpose of targeting those most likely to qualify for lone pensioner allowance?	Yes – By using information held by the Department of Work and Pensions to identify and to inform those over 70 years of age of the availability of the relief to improve uptake.
5.	Are you happy for data to be shared in this way for the purpose of targeting those most likely to qualify for disabled persons allowance?	Yes – By using information held by the Department of Work and Pensions to identify and to inform those on disability benefits of the availability of the relief to improve uptake.
6.	Are you happy for data to be shared in this way for the purpose of targeting those most likely to qualify for rate relief?	Yes – By using information held by the Department of Work and Pensions to identify and to inform those just outside the income levels for housing benefit of the availability of the relief to improve uptake.

7.	Would you like to be able, if you so desired, to have access to the record of who accessed your data and for what purpose?	Yes – In order to increase confidence in the public on how Government handles personal information, details of which departments may have access and for what purpose should be made available.
8.	Is there any other information you would require before you would be happy for your data to be shared between Government Departments?	None Noted
9.	Do you have any concerns about the potential misuse of the data?	Any concerns should be addressed by the reviews and reports from both UK and Northern Ireland Government as detailed in the consultation.
<u>Section 3 Data Sharing – Other Take Up Issues</u>		
10.	Are you happy for this data to be shared for the purpose of Land & Property Services assessing housing benefit applications for owner occupiers?	Yes - The extension of the data sharing powers to share information with LPS as well as the other government departments will improve efficiencies in processing the claims.