

# PORTBALLINTRAE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Rating Policy Division  
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10<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Sirs,

## Response to Review of Domestic Rating – Data Sharing Consultation

Our association considered the above consultation document at their monthly meeting and there was majority support for the proposal to share data between Land and Property Services and other Government departments for the purpose of targeting those most likely to qualify for the available rate reliefs.

Nevertheless, there were some concerns re the proposed scheme:

- It was seen as an attempt by Government to amass even more personal information about individuals, and it was pointed out that the Government does not hold this information by right, but only with the consent of the people concerned.
- Fears were expressed about the possibility of such information falling into the wrong hands, especially in view of recent highly-publicised incidents of losses of confidential data by Government agencies.
- It was suggested that the same end could be achieved by other means: e.g. improving the information re rate reliefs and entitlement to benefits that accompanies the rates bills and using larger type to assist the elderly.
- It was also felt that the take-up of reliefs and benefits could be improved by a television advertising campaign similar to those used to promote public health issues.

I hope that our views will be taken into account in reaching a decision on this matter.

Yours faithfully



Suzanne Mortimer  
Hon. Secretary