

From; Patrick Cumiskey [pat.cumiskey@banbridge.gov.uk]

Sent: Thu 03/07/2008 10:37

To: Rating Policy CFG

Subject: Rating of Empty Homes

I refer to your Department's Consultation Document dated May 2008. At a recent Council meeting Members asked that I convey their views as follows:

- (1) The Council generally supports the Department's attempt to bring more empty properties into occupancy status.
- (2) The Council considers that a 100% rating liability on empty homes is excessive.
- (3) It is suggested that a 50% rating would be more appropriate with the possible exception of properties held by Developers.
- (4) The Council was particularly concerned that the valuation allowance for farmhouses is retained and that unoccupied farmhouses are not automatically rated.

We trust the Council's views will be reflected in the Department's deliberations.

Regards

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