



DERRY CITY COUNCIL

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Our Ref. JC/GOK

27 August 2008

Department of Finance and Personnel
Rating Policy Division
Room D12
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR BT19 7NA

Dear Sir,

Re: Rating of Empty Homes Consultation

I would advise that Council considered the above proposal to introduce 100% rating of empty homes at full Council meeting on 18 July 2008.

Derry City Council's position is that in principal we would accept the case for the introduction of 100% on rating on empty homes although one elected Member felt that a grant scheme should also be made available to encourage empty homes that have fallen into disrepair to be brought back into use.

It has also come to light recently, as part of the finalisation of actual penny product 2007/08, that there has been a large take-up on the private landlord allowance since the

/ discount rate.....

discount rate was increased from 10% to 15%. This has resulted in additional allowance payments of almost £500,000 for the Derry City Council area when compared to the 2006/07 year.

On behalf of Derry City Council I would request that an immediate review be carried out of the effectiveness of the private landlord allowance and would argue strongly that this allowance should be abolished if 100% rating on empty homes is introduced.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Campbell', written in a cursive style.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL
CITY TREASURER