

RECEIVED 14 AUG 2008

12 / 8 / 08

Rating of Empty Homes

Dear Sir,

What is it coming to when the government of our country dreams up a scheme to steal money from people for nothing. Rates pay for services and empty houses have no occupants to benefit from those services - end of argument.

I know that when this was dreamt up the assembly men were probably trying to clobber the developers who were sitting on houses while they went up in value but the market as it always does has taken care of them.

Now unfortunately the only people who will be caught in the net are the honest people who are already on their uppers paying the government usually for no gain.

I would plead for the farmers many of whom have old unfit houses in their farmyards which have been replaced with modern houses off- site. These old houses would cost a fortune to repair and how could you then rent them out in the middle of a working farmyard. I note your comments on double rates if unoccupied but with these difficulties farmers should be getting a discount if this goes through.

I would hope that common sense will prevail and this ill- considered proposal will be scrapped. Lets face it if the government intention was to release more houses for potential home owners this has already been achieved by the market - there are thousands of houses and apartments for sale with not a pound note bid on them.

Yours Sincerely