

Dear Sir/Madam

We have no difficulty whatever with the general principle that those in higher value properties should pay more rates than those in lower value properties. However we think a situation where those in the most expensive properties (valued at or above £500,000) should have to pay more than 10 times as much as those in the least expensive is fundamentally unfair. The discrepancy is much too great since both occupiers receive the same services and benefits in return for those rates, and those individuals who are genuinely in need (who are by no means all those living in lower value properties) are able to avail of various statutory benefits and reliefs.

We therefore wish to propose that the upper limit for rating valuation should be £400,000 rather than £500,000 on the basis that it would be fairer and more equitable between ratepayers.