



Department of Finance and Personnel  
Rating Policy Division  
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Dear Sir

I am concerned to see that in my rates bill the transitional relief is rapidly reducing. With all the other dramatic increases in taxed fuel and foods, I wonder how I will be able to pay the rates bill for my home next year.

I feel that the £500,000 cap is still far too high and am particularly disappointed to see that smaller houses will be paying a fraction ( perhaps as little as one tenth ! ) of my anticipated bill **even though they receive exactly the same level of services from your department as I do !**

It seems ludicrous that one is repeatedly ( annually ) penalised so viciously by a rating system dependant on a property value which is resultant on personal taxed monies spent on home purchase and improvements.

My understanding is that no other part of the UK pays such high rates and I am aware of a movement towards a cap of £300,000 which would seem more reasonable, though still asking some households for a considerable contribution towards a very unfair scheme.

Another cost householders now face is water and sewerage charges, again based on this ridiculous notion of home value. It is clear that the amount of water/ sewerage services a household requires is dependant on the number of occupants and their habits and as this outrageous charging method takes no account of such parameters it can only be perceived as just another way of 'mugging' those individuals who choose to invest in their home.

As water is becoming a more precious commodity and needs to be used wisely, it would seem appropriate to charge via a metering system - the providers of gas and electricity have successfully demonstrated this for many years !

Un equitable treatment of the individual eventually becomes resented and it is time these matters were resolved fairly.

I look forward to receiving your comments

