

June 23rd 2008

I am concerned to see in my rates bill this year that the transitional relief I previously received was removed since I moved house recently.

I am a single mother of five children, whom I have brought up over the past years, while continuing to work full time so that I could keep our family home.

I recently sold as the older children were moving to university and moved to another house in the area, and as a result relief was removed.

This combined with other dramatic increases in energy, food and tax, makes me very concerned now about my ability to pay my rates bill next year, as I continue to support myself and younger members of family and 3 sons at university.

I have received a rates bill in excess of £3,000 which is extremely high for the services I receive, especially when I consider that small houses valued at £35,000 may only be paying £215 next year while I am paying nearly 15 times this amount.

Considering that both homes will receive the same level of services and many small homes have more than one earner or might have government support to pay both rates and rent, I feel that fairness dictates that the cap be reduced to £400,000.

I would like to request that our locally elected ministers will review this unfair legislation and make appropriate changes by setting the rates cap at £400,000, to ensure fairness and affordability for all, in this precarious financial climate.

Yours Sincerely,