

31 August 2007

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Brian McClure
2007 Executive Review of Domestic Rating Reform
Rating Policy Division
Department of Finance and Personnel
Room D12, Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road,
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Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation – Rates Review 2007

I refer to the above consultation which was issued on 17th July 2007. Omagh DC is largely in support of many of the key points made by NILGA in their submission. However they would like further consideration to be given to the following:

- Whilst it is recognised that use of discrete capital values may be fairer in some respects, this system does not fully consider the ability of the ratepayer to meet the rates liability arising. In particular the system of reliefs should be considered more fully with an emphasis on the impact on the elderly. The council strongly supports the introduction of a robust system of lower income relief schemes.
- Secondly the council would emphasise the need for clarity between the regional and district rates. Many ratepayers are still unclear of exactly what their rates are used to finance and improvements in this area would should be made.

Please contact the undersigned if further information is required.

Yours faithfully

Joan McCaffrey
Chief Finance Officer.