

Dear Sir/Madam

I live in a modest three bedroom semi-detached bungalow and I have to say that I welcomed the new rating system introduced by direct rule minister. I believe the decision to base rates on the capital value of properties is fair.

I was fortunate to receive a small reduction in this year's bill and would not expect the new Assembly to introduce a new system where I and a number of others like me would again be asked to pay more. I hope the new Assembly will not be acting solely on the behalf of the affluent members of the region (those who can afford large grand houses) and await with interest to see how the new ministers react.

I also await with anticipation regarding the ministers decision on the introduction of water charges and how the charges will be made up. What criteria will be used in deciding on the level of charge? I wrote some time ago to the new Water company to point out that I, acting in a responsible manner, had introduced a number of water saving measures into my property and asked as to whether people like I who have acted in such a way will be given some recognition for our actions?

I await further progress of the proposals