

Rating Policy Review

I would like you to consider the following suggestions in relation to the Finance Minister's Review of the new Capital Value Rating System:-

(1) Disability relief not based on homes being modified as many disabilities do not need this, therefore they are being discriminated against.

(2) Older persons savings limit must be raised to a more realistic amount i.e. £50,000, so that more people can access help with rates rather than having to leave their family home which they have worked hard and pay tax on the money they earned in order to buy their home, in many case they will have to leave their home because they can not afford the hugh increase in tax on their home, surely N.I. has heard enough about victims without creating more.

(3) Rate relief for students should only be paid direct to the student and not through the Landlord, in fact the Landlords should be paying commercial rates like all other business and in fact they could afford it a lot better than most independent people in business.

(4) Any person living alone should be able to access a single persons discount i.e. 25% reduction.

All aspects of a rating review should be based on looking for a system that first and foremost is based on "Ability to Pay" and the value of their home certainly does not reflect this.

A service based system where one only pays for services used would be much fairer as a lot of services are already paid through our income tax system.

I hope my comments will be looked at and taken seriously when addressing this very serious issue, I am confident that our own locally election Politicians will understand the needs of our people and will act accordingly.

Thank you for taking these suggestions on board.