RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

With regard to proposed review of rating, I should like to make the point that Northern Ireland should be treated in the same way as the rest of the United Kingdom with regard to single person discount. As a pensioner who purchased her home with another member of her family (now deceased) when both were in full-time employment, I now find that as a single occupier I am expected to pay the same amount as families with two earners - the amount I pay equals to two months of my pension. Because I have a very small occupational pension I am not entitled to any rebate, yet if I lived in England, Scotland or Wales I would qualify for at least 25% discount as a single occupier.

I would be grateful if those responsible for the new policy could take account of my comments and treat Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom (which it is).