

2007 Executive Review of Rating Reform

I believe that a single person discount should be introduced in line with that in GB. The report of the review stated that it felt this would not be the best way of targeting relief as single person householders with high incomes would also benefit. The fact remains that the vast majority of single householders have ordinary incomes and in the case of most lone parents, low incomes. Many single parents in work are above the means tested benefits limit and likely to be ineligible for means tested relief. The fact remains that a single source of family income makes it much harder to find the means to pay large bills such as Rates.

The introduction of the Cap on rates at £500,000 will benefit anyone with properties above this value, regardless of their income, and in my view such a Cap is far more likely to benefit the well off than the introduction of a single person discount and yet this concession has been made for political reasons. Everyone else, including single householders, will now have to make up the deficit in revenue with an increase in their contribution.

The introduction of a single person discount would be a much more equitable redistribution though perhaps not so "headline grabbing" politically.