

Proposed new Rates system

Sir

I wish to add my voice to the objections raised over the proposed new Rating system.

Basing a system on house values is a very simple system for raising money, but it is clumsy and inequitable.

The value of a house bears absolutely no relationship to the services received or the ability to pay.

My wife and I are pensioners living in a small house in an area of our choice.

The rates have gone up by over 80% and I will have some difficulty paying if the proposals are implemented.

There should be relief for pensioners and secondly, the value should be capped at, say, £300,000 which is above the average value of houses at 1 January 2005, the assessment date.

In the hope that someone may reconsider this proposed system and introduce some relieving amendments

Yours sincerely