

Dear Mr Robinson,

As a single income household, I feel very strongly that the 25% single income discount is applied in Northern Ireland. It is applied to those in the same position paying Council Tax throughout the rest of the UK, so to deny this to people in Northern Ireland is not acceptable.

Without it I can foresee not being able to continue to live in my home, as under the new Capital Value rates system the Northern Ireland 'market value' has more than outstripped my income. The next revaluation in 2010/12 will result in rates (and water) bills which would take my tax burden to well over the high earners' 40% mark and would force me to leave my home, as it would be impossible to find nearly 3 months' full take home pay to meet these bills.

To be taxed in such an inequitable way is totally indefensible and I would hope that the new Northern Ireland Assembly would agree.

Implementing a system based on a percentage of income is the only truly fair way to raise Rates, since these are no longer being used purely to fund the previous services associated with Domestic Rates, but to fund additional Government loans etc. I feel that ability to pay using the existing PAYE system and not speculator-driven market prices is the only basis for taxation which is workable and acceptable and most importantly fair.