

Dear Sirs

I refer PERSONALLY to the above and would seek to advise the Minister that I am strongly of the opinion that one course of action would be that all VACANT domestic property should be rateable, probably similar to Commercial property. I am aware that this may be under consideration.

I believe that such action should reduce/deter the investment market and thus in consequence improve the supply of property to the market. As a consequence I would anticipate that this action will impact on the extreme prices which effectively have made it impossible for the average [majority] individuals to realistically buy/afford a house in the province. Prices should reduce and the whole market re-balances which has to be beneficial.

Homes should be for people NOT INVESTOR[S] driven as of recent!

The domestic Property market in N.I. has been fuelled for the last 2/3 years by inter -alia cheap money and predicated/driven by investor expectation.

Also, I do consider it fairer and appropriate that discounts on occupancy [e.g. single or two person- age related] should be considered/available.

A form of local income tax would be MUCH FAIRER based on ABILITY to pay - [ not value related], even in part where there would exist a set standard charging with the balance based on income and ability to pay. This has ALWAYS been the case, but the Government have never accepted this PRINCIPAL!

I trust these opinions are constructive.