

Department of Finance and Personnel  
2007 Domestic Rating Review  
Room D12 Rathgael House  
43 Balloo Road  
Bangor  
Co Down BT19 7NA

Dear Sirs

There are a number of points I would like to make in relation to the Rating Review.

I am aware that rates are now dependent on the value of my home, although the cost of my home bears no relation to my income. I support the points raised by the Fair Rates Campaign.

- Disability relief should not be dependent on a home being adapted for a disability. Blind, sometimes physically or mentally handicapped, may not have any adaptations to their homes yet, but they should receive this relief.
- There should be a 25% reduction for single person's occupancy of a house.
- If the capital value system is retained, then the maximum rates should be based on a home value of £300,000.00.
- Any rate relief being directed at students should be given to them and not to their landlords.
- There should be an increase on the savings limit for pensioners before their rate relief is affected.
- The maximum that people should pay for their rates should be no more than five times the lowest rate bill, with the system generating no more revenue than had previously been generated by the old rating system (in the rest of the UK the range is only three times).