



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

31 July 2014

BUSINESS RATES: OPEN LETTER TO THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO THE CONSULTATION PAPER “CHECKING AND CHALLENGING YOUR RATEABLE VALUE”

Thank you for your response to the Government’s consultation on “Checking and Challenging your Rateable Value”.

The purpose was to make improvements to the operation of the appeals process by providing greater transparency in how rateable values are established, requiring ratepayers to provide an explanation with a formal challenge, and introducing a formal separation between the proposal stage and appeal stage.

There were over 70 responses to the consultation from a range of local authorities, rating agents, representative bodies and individual businesses. In commenting on the consultation, many respondents took the opportunity to raise views on the broader nature of the current business rates system. Respondents also welcomed the Government’s intention to reform the appeals process but argued that the Government should consider reform in the broader context of the review of business rates administration, which the Chancellor announced in the Autumn Statement 2013.

Having listened and carefully considered those views, and given the interaction between the two, the Government has decided to fold the consideration of reform of the business rates appeals process in to the broader review of business rates administration, which is considering longer-term reform taking effect after the next revaluation in April 2017.

Yours faithfully,

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