

Local Government and Communities Directorate

Local Government Division
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

13 July 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam

Barclay Review of Business Rates - How to Get Involved

The Barclay review group has been set up to make recommendations that seek to enhance and reform the business rates system in Scotland to better support business growth and long term investment and reflect changing marketplaces.

The Group will report to Ministers in July 2017. You are invited to contribute to our conversation so we can design a solution together on how the system can be reformed, whilst still maintaining the overall level of funding to provide the services upon which businesses rely.

Please submit your comments by **7 October 2016** with the completed Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) to:

ratesreview@gov.scot

If you don't have internet access, you may post your comments to the address below.

Local Government Finance Unit
Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

If you have any queries, please email ratesreview@gov.scot

We would be grateful if you would keep responses to under 12 pages, wherever possible.

Handling your response

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** which forms part of the consultation questionnaire attached to this letter as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly. All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. If you use Citizen Space to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so.

The group will consider all responses made, along with other representations and evidence to produce a series of recommendations to Ministers in July 2017. The Government will then consider these recommendations.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to ratesreview@gov.scot or the postal address listed above.

Please note your response will be acknowledged, but the group cannot enter into correspondence nor can members adjudicate or offer any interpretations or opinions on the operation of the current system.

I look forward to receiving your contribution.

Kind Regards,

Marianne Barker
Secretary to the Barclay Business Rates Review Group
ratesreview@gov.scot

Barclay Review of Business Rates

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
www.scotland.gov.uk

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organization?

- Individual
- Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

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Phone number

Address

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Postcode

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Email

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
- Publish response only (anonymous)
- Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which category best describes your organisation (Tick one only).

Business Owner/ Ratepayer	
Business Representative Organisation/ Trade Body	

Local authority	
Other public sector (e.g. NHS Board, Executive Agency or NDPB)	
Third sector/ equality organisations	
Professional/ Representative body for professionals e.g. rating agent	
Academic	
Individual	
Other – please state...	

Please ensure you email this form along with your response to ratesreview@gov.scot by 7 October 2016

Barclay Review of Business Rates

Q How would you re-design the business rates system to better support business and incentivise investment?

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www.scotland.gov.uk

When formulating your response you may wish to consider the following points

- How your suggestion will support business and investment
- Whether the impact will be universal or sector / region specific
- If it will carry a cost to the Scottish Government and how this could be met from within the rating system
- Whether your suggestion will reduce or increase costs for some or all ratepayers
- If there is any evidence you can supply to support your suggestion it would be helpful if you include this