

Number: **WG14323**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

Welsh Government

## Call for Evidence

### Business Rate Policy Review

We want your evidence and views on options for how the business rate regime and related rate relief schemes can be modified to better encourage economic development.

Start of consultation: **5 December 2011**

End of consultation: **27 January 2012**

---

## **Call for evidence: Business Rate Policy Review**

We want your evidence and views on options for how the business rate regime and related rate relief schemes can be modified to better encourage economic development.

**Start of consultation:** 05/12/2011

**End of consultation:** 27/01/2012

### **Business Rate Policy Review Group**

#### **Independent advisory group**

An independent advisory group has been set up to review and consider the options on how non-domestic, (business), rates can be used to support economic growth.

The terms of reference for the review include:

- Consider the relative importance of the non-domestic / business rates regime as a lever for supporting economic growth.
- Assess the implications of specific policies in relation to small business rate relief, empty property rate relief, and rate relief as a targeted policy intervention to encourage economic development (to include renewable energy businesses as well as assistance in disadvantaged areas).
- Make recommendations on the above, taking into account that non-domestic / business rates exist to raise funding for local services and recognising that non-domestic rates do not just apply to 'businesses' but to all non-domestic properties.

We welcome your views on how the current business rate system can be modified to achieve the objectives set out in the terms of reference above.

Please provide examples of how a revised system could provide better outcomes and the likely costs involved.

Please remember that we are looking for modifications of the current system – we are not looking at the option of wholesale replacement of business rates by, say, a land tax or profits tax.

How to respond: Your submission must be no more than 1,000 words, together with a summary of the main points, which should not exceed 100 words.

Please submit your comments by 27 January 2012, in any of the following ways:-

### **Email**

Businessrates@wales.gsi.gov.uk

### **Post**

Business Rates Review Group,  
c/o Strategy and DGOT,  
QED Centre,  
Main Avenue,  
Treforest Estate,  
Pontypridd,  
CF37 5YR

If you have any queries on this consultation, please telephone 0300 0615830

Notes on the Independent advisory group

The group, chaired by Professor Brian Morgan of Cardiff Metropolitan University, is made up of representatives covering a wide variety of business and public sector backgrounds.

### **Members**

Brian Morgan (Chair)

Chris Sutton, CBI /Jones Lang LaSalle

Mr David Swallow, Eversheds LLP

John Gravelle, Carmarthenshire County Council

Juliet Luporini, Swansea Business Improvement District

Helen Simpson, Institute of Fiscal Studies - Advisory Capacity

## Timeline

The Group has issued a Call for evidence and will deliver its draft report by March 2012. After considering the recommendations the Welsh Government will respond by the summer of 2012.

## How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.