

Consultation opens on appeals process for non-domestic rates in Wales

A consultation opens today on improving and modernising the long established system to make sure that it's fair and works as well as it can.

All the non-domestic rates revenue raised in Wales is redistributed to local government and policing bodies in Wales.

This helps to pay for the services – education, social care, waste management, transport, housing, public protection, leisure and environmental amenities and more – on which we all rely.

The consultation sets out how the appeals system could better reflect changing circumstances and make the best use of current technology.

Also included are specific aspects such as when information should be provided during the appeals process, the potential introduction of fees for unsuccessful appeals, new civil penalties for providing false information and the requirement to make appeals in a responsible and accountable manner.

Launching the consultation today, Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford said:

“Non-domestic rates provide £1 billion in funding for our public services so it is essential that all eligible ratepayers make a contribution.

“However, in return, we need to make sure that the system in place for dealing with appeals is as fair and transparent as it can possibly be.

“One of the key features of the rates system in Wales is that each ratepayer has a right to appeal their rates valuation if they believe it to be incorrect.

“It is important that ratepayers are paying the right amount of rates and, if this is not the case, that corrections are made as quickly as possible.

“It is equally important that every ratepayer acts responsibly in using the appeals system.

“Today marks the start of 12 weeks of consultation with ratepayers, industry representatives, other taxpayers and local authorities.

“We are very keen to hear their views as we look to make the non-domestic rates appeals system fit for the future and responsive to the needs of Welsh businesses.”