

From the Minister of Finance

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Marie, a chara,

SUPPLEMENTARY CONSULTATION – DOMESTIC RATING POLICY

In my statement to the Assembly, after our meeting on the morning of 9 December, I laid out my strategic roadmap for rating policy and outlined my aim to build a progressive rates system based on the principles of fairness and equity, aligned with the Executive's wider policy objectives. My full statement is laid out at the link below for ease of reference:-

[Minister of Finance Oral Statement - Rating Policy - Strategic Roadmap | Department of Finance](#)

In line with that statement I am taking forward commitments to commence a supplementary consultation on two specific measures within the domestic rating system here. The consultation seeks views on:-

- Elevating the current level of the Maximum Capital Value on domestic properties from £400,000 to £485,000.
- Reducing the Early Payment Discount from 4% to 2%.

I attach to this letter (Annex A) a copy of the consultation document which will be published later today. This document lays out policy proposals at this stage; no change will be made without agreement at Executive level, and the earliest such a measure could be introduced is April 2026.

There will be a period of 12 weeks for this consultation, but I am aware from our discussion on 9 December that aspects of this consultation will have a specific importance to Councils, particularly those within which there is a concentration of

properties subject to the current cap. I also appreciate that Councils will need time to clear any response through their members, and therefore my officials will be extending flexibility in and around the end date so that Councils can complete this process. Today's consultation launch therefore is intended to mark the start of the process of engagement with Councils and I would expect that to continue past the official close of the consultation process. That flexibility will allow us to work together in partnership to progress a final policy position that fully takes account of the implications for Councils. To that end it will be important for us to engage with SOLACE and NILGA at a strategic level as well as with individual councils. I have to that end copied the NILGA Chief Executive into this letter.

In relation to the specific proposals, as I outlined at our meeting, these are being progressed following my analysis of the consultation process that ended in February last year, along with supplementary engagement undertaken by my Department since then. Again, a copy of the summary findings of that prior consultation can be accessed at the link below for ease of reference:-

[Consultation on Non-domestic and Domestic rating measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue | Department of Finance](#)

Is mise le meas,



**DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

CC:

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