

From the Office of the
Minister for Finance & Personnel



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Your
reference:
Our
reference: AQO/311/11-15 &
SUB/1147/2011

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MP MLA

Copied to MLAs

Dear Chris

4 October 2011

I refer to the Assembly Questions I responded to on Monday 19 September 2011, and in particular the supplementary responses provided to AQO/311/11-15.

In answering the questions I made the following statements:-

- "We already have the rate relief scheme for small businesses. The proposal that we have out for consultation, which will finish on 18 October, will double the number of businesses brought into the scheme."
- "It provides 20% rate relief for businesses with a valuation between £10,000 and £5,000 and 50% for those with a rateable value of £5,000 or less."

I have underlined above the sections of the answers that require amendment. To clarify the scheme currently provides relief for eligible properties with an NAV £5,000 or less.

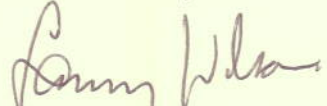
- Properties with an NAV of £2,000 or less receive 50% relief.
- Those with an NAV of between £2,001 and £5,000 receive 25% relief.

There are no plans to increase the reductions given to businesses already in receipt of relief.

The proposed extension of the scheme will provide 20% relief for eligible properties with an NAV of £5,001 - £10,000, which will double the amount of relief provided under the main scheme and increase the number receiving help by around 50%.

I have arranged for this letter to be copied to all MLAs, the Speaker and have also arranged for a copy to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely


SAMMY WILSON MP MLA