



NARBERTH CHAMBER OF TRADE

Established 31st May 1922



Chairman: **David Norcross**
01834861057
d.norcross@lineone.net

Secretary: **Gordon Barry**
01437541277
gordon_barry@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: **John Williams**
01834860228
JWilliams909@aol.com

Vice Chair: **Anthony Ryan**
01834861880
wisebuys@fsmail.net

Bodringallt,
Llawhaden,
Narberth,
Pembrokeshire. SA67 8DL

Naomi Stocks
Clerk, Petitions Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA.

Thursday 12th May 2011
Your ref: P-03-271

Dear Ms Stocks,

PETITION: P-03-271 Business Rates in Narberth
Update 12 May 2011

Thank you for your Email of the 10th May 2011, where correspondence from the Valuation Office Agency was attached.

I would wish to update our response in light of the information in this letter.

The Chamber fully understand the Valuation Office Agency's remit to carry out the assessment of rateable values in accordance with legislation and that it is carried out independently of billing, collection and policy etc. That it was their task to gather hard information to enable recalculation of the business rateable values for properties.

We are also appreciative of the most helpful way in which the VOA has worked with Chambers and other business groups. Indeed we would like to thank Mr Brian Jones and Mr Bradley Davies for their support, interest and help with our problems, whilst understanding the constraints that they have to work to.

However it would be worthwhile using the data gathered by the VOA, as the result of the rate revaluation calculations, to further investigate the impact of the changes on Welsh SME's.

It would then be easier to target support by identifying the various business sectors / geographical area's / even rateable value charged, where those rateable value increases have greatly exceed the norm.

For example.

- Number of Business rates that have increased by 100%
- Number of 'retail' Business rates that have increased by 100%
- Number of 'holiday' Business rates that have increased by 100%

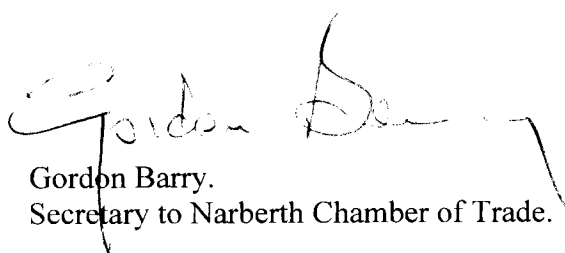
Each looked at by the totals for Wales, Pembrokeshire and Narberth.

Then to look at the effects on specific area most affected i.e. 'retail' and 'holiday' SME's with (say) a 2005 Rateable value of less than £5,000. who have then suffered increases of greater than 100%

In this way it may be possible to reconcile the problem of some SME's who have had small increases or even decreases in their business rates, benefiting from substantial rate relief (SBRR etc) whilst others who have had huge increases in business rates cannot benefit as their rateable value now exceeds the upper limit for qualification and thus puts them beyond any relief.

These figures would help with providing useful background information for our original petition request by targeting specific areas for further examination.

Thank you,



Gordon Barry.
Secretary to Narberth Chamber of Trade.