



William Graham AM
Chair
Enterprise and Business Committee

21 December 2015

Dear William

I am writing in response to two actions following my attendance at the Enterprise and Business Committee on 9 December on Business Rates.

I undertook to raise with Local Authority Leaders the issue of hardship relief and its application across Wales. I have written to Leaders and will be meeting with them towards the end of January. I will provide an update for the Committee following this.

I also agreed to look at the data publicly available on business rates schemes. In terms of the schemes that I operate through my portfolio, I already provide information on the Business Rates scheme in Enterprise Zones which can be accessed by the following link:

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/141203-ezw-progress-update-en.pdf>

Information on the other reliefs I currently support through my Department will be published on the Welsh Government website by the end of January.

Some data on the collection of business rates, and amount of relief awarded by local authorities, is available at the following link

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Non-Domestic-Rates>

I will, however, make enquiries as to whether there is more information the Valuation Office Agency can publish and whether there are opportunities to do so in the next valuation cycle.

Edwina Hart