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COMPLETE

PAGE 2: RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Q1: Please tell us a little about yourself

Q2: Would you be happy to be approached by the Commission for further discussion about your submission? No

Q3: Do you consider yourself or your organisation as from or representing? an urban area

Q4: I am responding as an: An individual

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Q5: You have indicated that you are responding as an individual. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public on the Commission's web site? Yes

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Q6: If you have agreed to your response being made available to the public, please tell us if we may also make your name and address available. Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

Q7: You have indicated that you are responding on behalf of an organisation. The name and address of your organisation will be made public on the Commission's web site. Are you content for your response to also be made available?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Which of the following best describes your organisation?

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Please provide a short description of the main purpose of your organisation.

Respondent skipped this question

Q10: CURRENT SYSTEM OF COUNCIL TAX: To what extent does the current system of council tax deliver a fair and effective system of local taxation in Scotland? Are there any features of the current system that you wish to see retained or changed? Please illustrate your answer with any examples from your own experience.

Problem for Edinburgh residents is not so much the calculation of the contribution, as the things it is spent on (tram deficit; statutory notice debacle).

Q11: REFORM OF LOCAL TAXATION: Are there alternatives to the current system of council tax that you think would help to reform local taxation in Scotland? What are the main features of these, and why do you think they would deliver improvement? Do you have any examples of why this is the case?

Feel very resistant to contributing MORE to Edinburgh's coffers (eg via local income tax) because I simply do not agree with the spending decisions they make, or feel that they can be trusted with the monies they collect.

In an ideal world, Council Tax would be used to pay for rubbish collection and street cleansing, libraries and leisure centres, road and pavement maintenance and other basic services like that (rather than transport vanity projects, enquiries into Council scandals etc). The cost of providing such services correlates reasonably well with a per capita basis, although I understand that people's ability to pay varies a lot. However, I do feel that it is inappropriate to move ever further away from a per capita basis of charge towards a local income tax system. We already HAVE income tax to pay for hospitals, defence, transport etc, why should higher earners also pay double to have their bins emptied?

I might feel differently about the prospect of paying higher local taxation if the monies I already paid were managed adequately.

Edinburgh manages to make no money from the Festival while lining the pockets of hoteliers and a few favoured 'cultural providers'; manages to flog off a priceless asset (RHS) for almost no money; never passes up an opportunity to give the family silver away for free. And then whines that Council Tax for residents is capped - thank goodness it IS or they would bankrupt us all too!!

Call for Written Evidence

Q12: LOCAL PRIORITIES:How well do you think that communities' local priorities are accounted for in the way that local taxation operates at the moment? If there is room for improvement, how should things change?Do you have any ideas or examples about how this could improve people's lives?

'Communities' local priorities' - how are these determined? No consensus on anything can be achieved by opening every decision up to public opinion; ideally it is the role of the Council to determine how funds should be used. It's just a shame that Edinburgh does this so incredibly badly.

I am thankful that the Scottish Government has decided that Council Tax should be capped - otherwise CEC would be sending unlimited demands to residents in higher bands, going after easy targets.

Q13: FURTHER INFORMATION:We would like to keep the conversation going. Please tell us about any events, networks or other ways in which we could help achieve this.

Respondent skipped this question