

Call for Written Evidence



Q1: Please tell us a little about yourself

Forename	Liz
Surname	Gray
Title (e.g. Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Dr)	Mrs

Q2: Would you be happy to be approached by the Commission for further discussion about your submission?	Yes
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Q3: Do you consider yourself or your organisation as from or representing?	a rural area
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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 and name available, but not my address
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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

PAGE 6: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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.

I believe that the council tax is an unfair tax as it is based on the value of the property but takes no account of ability to pay. We are both pensioners and find that council tax of £136 per month is a big strain on our income. I believe that the fairest way of funding local councils should take account of ability to pay. It's difficult to know what type of legislation could be put in place and I'm aware that previous legislation to have a local income tax failed but that was when the SNP were a minority administration. Perhaps something similar could now be put before the Scottish Parliament now that there is a better chance of it being supported and becoming law. However, it probably is the type of legislation that Westminster might veto.

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?

As mentioned in the previous part I believe that a local income tax would be a fairer way of funding local government. I wonder if it would raise sufficient funds together with the funding from the Scottish Government.

For those on lower incomes but who do not qualify for Welfare Payments it would be beneficial in helping people such as us who are on low and fixed incomes.

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?

Local priorities are to a large extent hindered in what can be done to help the communities of each of the 32 councils. With funding being cut drastically by Westminster and the freeze on council tax to help the less well off it really is hindering councils supporting the various organisations which support those who need support not only financially but also in terms of support for their needs.

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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.

Perhaps if Community Councils were less Party Political they would be a good network but I am aware that the one where I live is to a large extent Labour Party dominated. However, the Labour Party are not so powerful as they were due to the recent elections and so the Community Councils might become less politically biased.

Where I live there is a Community Development Trust as there is in many town and villages and they might be persuaded to become more involved.

PAGE 7: Additional information if you are responding as an individual

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