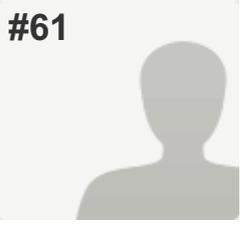


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PAGE 2: RESPONDENT INFORMATION

**Q1: Please tell us a little about yourself**

Forename	Lynne
Surname	Palmer
Title (e.g. Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Dr)	Miss

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<b>Q2: Would you be happy to be approached by the Commission for further discussion about your submission?</b>	Yes
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<b>Q3: Do you consider yourself or your organisation as from or representing?</b>	an area with both urban and rural parts
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<b>Q4: I am responding as an:</b>	An individual
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<b>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?</b>	Yes
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## Call for Written Evidence

**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.**

No1. I live in a bedsit flat in Perth, my bed is in my sitting room.

In the current Council Tax system I feel bedsits should be given an A- band (A minus). Flats with one bedroom are A band, so bedsits should be a lower band so that we pay less; the current system of banding could be adjusted.

No2. I think the Poll Tax was a good system because every adult had to pay to help run the community; the only people paying at the moment are tenants & owners.

No3. People who are getting full Council Tax Benefit are not helping to run the community; this is not good. They can still walk the streets under street lamps, go swimming & use the library etc. I think everyone should pay something according to a sliding scale after assessment, this would be much fairer than the present system.

**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?**

No4. I do not know of any.

**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?**

No5. In Perth & Kinross my own experience is that if I want to know how effective the Council is I would find someone at the Council & ask them a question about this or that, to find things out. This has come from years of experience of doing Tenant Participation (Housing), & realising that I can only know something by taking the initiative myself. It becomes straight-forward to email staff to find something out.

No6. Also, there's a lot on a council's website e.g. documents which help me understand how a council does things. But it's a huge task to find out about something, lots of reading as well; sometimes I give up looking!

No7. A simple method of informing people could be the traffic-light system which has been used in P & K in housing info. Or another is saying when something is static, improving or declining in P & K. Members of the public could be asked to choose categories re. local tax through a survey. Then staff would have to record next to "static", "improving", "declining" how the particular issue is doing. Once a year members of the public who don't use a computer could be assisted by a council volunteer to ask/find out how a certain issue is performing. This means a member of the public might actually start asking questions & even ask for more categories/issues to be included.

**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.**

No8. At our tenant conference in June we might be using "Quizdom" again; this is a method of voting using a hand-held device. Last year we used "Quizdom" twice, in June & December. It's very popular & tenants tacking part are anonymous; the results appear on a screen so that you can see the immediate outcome of tenant participation; this is a key point in TP/user involvement & it's very important. People must be allowed to see the affect they can have on their community by their contribution; if this doesn't happen there's a missing link in the process. This is a key way to raise interest in community.

No9. Ask councils if staff/executives from Scot. Gov. can attend events where "Quizdom" is used. Also think about the systems mentioned above.

No10. Start a pilot project in a council area on the issue of local taxation.