



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1257
Ein cyf/Our ref: RE-00051-22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

8 February 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter regarding petition P-06-1257 Reduced council tax for private estate properties.

The Minister for Climate Change is leading the delivery of our Programme for Government commitment to 'ensure that estate charges for public open spaces and facilities are paid for in a way that is fair'. Work is in train to deliver a number of actions to address the causes and symptoms of estate charges being applied to householders including:

- Legislation to establish consistent consent, adoption and payment regimes operated by local authorities
- Legislation to address the failure of local authorities to adopt new and existing drainage schemes;
- Legislating to enable freeholders to challenge the reasonableness of estate charges (on same basis as leaseholders currently can);
- Regulating residential property management companies.

Council tax is not a service charge but a local tax which contributes towards the general funding for a wide range of local services. It is not directly linked to the receipt of specific services. This general funding pays for a wide range of local services, including education, social services, housing, transport, waste collection and recycling, environmental services and leisure provision – services from which all local taxpayers benefit. The use of particular services by individual households varies widely depending on many factors, including geography and household circumstances.

The amenities on private estate developments are provided as specific services under separate arrangements.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Any household experiencing difficulty in paying their council tax bill should contact their local authority to establish whether they are eligible for a discount or reduction. As well as the range of mandatory schemes in place, local authorities have discretionary powers to reduce council tax bills for particular households or properties.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Rebecca" and the last name "Evans" clearly distinguishable.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol

Minister for Finance and Local Government

