

LGF (S20) 02  
Bil Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru)  
Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill  
Ymateb gan: Unigolion  
Response from: Individual

I am writing to object to the proposal in the above Bill to stop publishing Statutory Notices in local newspapers.

As well as impacting the revenue stream of those newspapers, this is another step along the road to exclusion for those who do not have, cannot afford or lack the skills to use the internet.

Here in Penarth, we have already lost all our commercial banks and many of our shops, leaving empty units or charity shops. Cardiff has only one Department Store still open. These losses are a consequence of commercial decisions to save on premises costs, but leave those without internet skills with very few shopping or banking choices. The Welsh Government is not constrained commercially in the same way, and should be using its taxpayer funded resources to support services, like local newspapers, that are available offline.

I have no objection to the changes in Council Tax bands, other than to remind you that ownership of a valuable property does not mean access to high income levels. There is already a poor take up of Council Tax Benefit, so you should be careful to ensure that those affected by the changes can access information about financial help without using the internet ie using local newspapers.