

Consultation: The Future of Council Tax in Scotland

Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy - [Privacy - gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot/privacy)

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No

About You Questions

1. About you Question 1

[For individual respondents] Please tell us which local authority area(s) you live in

Local Authority Area(s):

[For organisational respondents] Please tell us which local authority area(s) your organisation operates in

The office of the Chartered Institute of Taxation is located in London. However, the organisation employs staff located across the United Kingdom, including in Scotland. The Chartered Institute of Taxation has 20,000 members; its members are based throughout the United Kingdom, including Scotland.

Local Authority Area(s):

2. About you Question 2

If you pay council tax, please indicate which council tax band(s) apply to the property (or properties) for which you pay council tax:

- Band A
- Band B
- Band C
- Band D
- Band E
- Band F
- Band G
- Band H
- I don't pay council tax
- I don't know

Questions for Consultation

1. Do you think the current council tax system in Scotland needs to be reformed?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. Do you think property values used to calculate council tax should be updated to reflect current market values, instead of using 1991 values (i.e. should there be a revaluation of every Property in Scotland)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3. How often do you think property values should be reviewed and updated for council tax purposes?

- Every 3 years
- Every 5 years
- Every 7 years
- Every 10 years
- Other, please specify [Please see our separate written response for more information.]
- Don't Know

4. Following a revaluation, do you think council tax band property value thresholds should be set at a national level or vary by council area?

- Thresholds should be set nationally to be the same across all council areas
- Thresholds should vary by council area based on local housing markets
- Don't know

5. Which of the following is most important to you in the design of council tax bands?

- Ensuring tax rises between bands are gradual and predictable (differentiation)
- Ensuring households in higher-value homes contribute more (progressivity)
- Don't know
- Other, please specify [Please see our separate written response for more information.]

6. Which of the potential council tax systems do you most support?

- Revaluation with 8 existing bands

- Revalued 12-band (differentiated) system
- Revalued 12-band (progressive) system
- Revalued 14-band system
- The current council tax system
- Don't know

7. Which of the potential council tax systems do you least support?

- Revaluation with 8 existing bands
- Revalued 12-band (differentiated) system
- Revalued 12-band (progressive) system
- Revalued 14-band system
- The current council tax system
- Don't know

8. Do you support the establishment of a transitional relief scheme to limit how much a household's council tax bill can increase each year following reform?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

9. Which transitional relief scheme would you prefer?

- Scheme 1: Cap increases at 10% or £300 per year
- Scheme 2: Cap increases at 25% or £600 per year
- Other, please specify [50 words maximum]
- Don't know

10. Do you support the establishment of a council tax deferral scheme for homeowners?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

11. In your view, who should be eligible to receive support from a council tax deferral scheme?

[Select as many as you think should apply]

- Pensioners (over state pension age)
- Disabled people
- Households with children
- Households experiencing financial hardship
- Other, please specify [50 words maximum]
- Don't know

12. Should households who defer payment pay interest on the amount deferred?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

13. Do you think the Council Tax Reduction scheme should be expanded to support more households following any reform?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

14. Which changes to the Council Tax Reduction scheme would you support? [Select as many as you think should apply]

- Broaden eligibility criteria for CTRS to include low-income households where the property moves into a higher band due to council tax system changes
- Change CTR so support is withdrawn more gradually as rising incomes move individuals out of eligibility
- No changes needed
- Other, please specify [50 words maximum]
- Don't know

15. Do you have any information you wish to share that has not already been discussed in the paper on the impact of council tax reform on any of the following:

- Groups who share protected characteristics
- Island Communities
- Businesses or organisations in the public, private or third sector
- Your local area

Please provide details, making reference to the type of impact to which your comments relate. [free text, 300 words maximum]

16. Please provide any other comments or views on the consultation themes or council tax reform that you have not been able to share above. [free text, 300 words maximum]

Please note that the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group (LITRG), together with the Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT), is submitting a separate, brief written response via e-mail. We intend to publish our written submission on our website.

Inevitably reform of council tax would cause some uncertainty, disruption and extra work for, among others, taxpayers, intermediaries and local government. A full revaluation will require significant administrative and financial investment. Reform is likely to generate significant comment. There will be winners and losers. People are likely to compare a new system with the existing system. It is important that all

parties work together to overcome these challenges. A key remedy will be communications. It will be important to have guidance that explains the changes and the reasons for them clearly. The opportunity should also be taken to try to improve public understanding of council funding.

Whatever reforms are made, it is likely that a system of reliefs and exemptions will continue to be necessary. Perhaps one of the most important, practical changes that could be made is to improve the take-up of discounts, reliefs and exemptions. This could be done by encouraging and assisting people to find out if they are eligible and helping them to apply.

