



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-975  
Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/00403/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

29 June 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-05-975 on council tax premiums and second homes.

The application of council tax premiums is a matter for individual local authorities. Local authorities in Wales have discretionary powers, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to apply premiums of up to 100% to the council tax bills for second homes and long-term empty properties. The decision to apply a premium, and the level at which to apply it, sits with each local authority enabling them to take account of their community needs and circumstances. Local authorities also have discretionary powers to apply discounts to the council tax bills for second homes and empty properties.

The powers to apply council tax premiums on second homes and long-term empty dwellings were introduced as a tool to help local authorities in Wales in bringing underused homes back into use and in managing issues affecting local housing supply. They were not introduced as a revenue-raising measure. The Welsh Government has no plans to alter the discretionary nature of these powers.

Local authorities in Wales also have powers to reduce council tax bills for households experiencing hardship. We are working with them to consider what support they can offer during this difficult time to ease the financial strains being faced by people across the country. Anyone experiencing difficulty in paying their council tax bill should check whether they might be eligible for support and contact their local authority. Our website provides information on the range of support available: <https://gov.wales/pay-less-council-tax>

The restrictions on movement which have been put in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic are an important part of our approach to controlling the spread of the virus in Wales.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

We keep these restrictions under continuous review and will continue to announce easements as and when the evidence indicates that it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd  
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd