

P-06-1330 We call on the Welsh Government to reject their proposals for a council tax revaluation, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.05.23

Thank you for your email and for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Having read the attached document, it would appear this is a fait accompli as the Welsh Government seems determined to push ahead with its plans to reform council tax. I am grateful to everyone who signed the petition to challenge what I consider to be an ill-thought-out policy and ensure Monmouthshire's voice is heard.

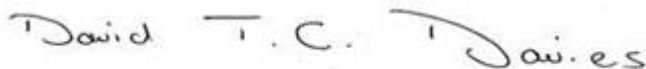
We have a right to know what the impact of a revaluation will be before any decisions are taken. Monmouthshire residents already face an unfair council tax burden because it is one of the lowest funded out of the 22 local authorities in Wales. Before the Minister for Finance and Local Government even considers a revaluation, she should bring forward a fairer funding formula and look at immediately assisting councils who generally throughout the years have not received their fair share of Revenue Support Grant.

Some local authorities in Wales have three-figure millions in reserves due to years of more generous funding per head of population. Yet Monmouthshire, which is really struggling with its budget, has only had a limited opportunity of accumulating money for its reserves.

It is totally unfair to push hard-pressed families into much higher council tax bands, potentially making it even more expensive and unaffordable for some local people to live here at a time when many are struggling with the cost of living. Nearly four out of 10 homeowners in Monmouthshire will face paying hundreds of pounds more each year by moving up a council tax band, while less than one in 10 would pay less by moving down a band.

We need a full and proper debate in the Senedd.

Regards David Davies

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. C. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Rt Hon David T C Davies MP
Member for Monmouth