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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-609  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/01660/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

[Senedd.Petitions@assembly.wales](mailto:Senedd.Petitions@assembly.wales)

20 April 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 9 April enclosing further comments from the petitioner with regard to P-04-609 Support Small Businesses – Support our High Streets.

This year, I have already implemented a number of measures aimed at supporting business, including an extension of the Small Business Rates Relief scheme and a further cap on the business rates multiplier. Both of these measures apply until March 2016. These will have the impact of reducing the business rates bill for all businesses across Wales, including small shops and those located on our high streets. These measures are automatically awarded to qualifying properties by local authorities.

Local authorities are responsible for administering schemes and I would urge businesses to contact them in the first instance to understand what relief they can apply for locally. Information is also available on local authority websites as well as on Welsh Government webpages.

Businesses also have the option to contact our Business Wales service which can provide a range of advice including on business rates. Our advisors can be contacted on 03000 6 03000.

We have taken extensive and consistent action to market these schemes, including making clear information and guidance available on the Welsh

Government website and on our Business Wales service. We have disseminated information through the Council for Economic Renewal and Wales Social Partners Unit.

*Edwina Hart*