

**From the Minister of Finance**

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**Your reference:** CLL 1.02.2024 SS/JT  
**Our reference:** COR-1097-2024  
**Date:** 11 March 2024

Ms Steele, a chara

## **BUSINESS RATES**

Thank you for your letter of 29 February about adopting the Scottish model of setting the business rate poundage.

This letter is quite timely as it comes as my Department is currently engaging with Ulster University on the potential for new research on the issue of rate poundage differentials across Council areas here, how this operates within the wider non-domestic rating system and any economic effects.

I should point out though that any structural changes to the rate striking process for non-domestic rates would be a complex one. District Council rate setting sits outside my Ministerial portfolio, local government finance falls within the Minister for Communities' policy and legislative competency.

I am, however, open to considering views on this matter alongside Executive colleagues.

**Is mise le meas**



**DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**