

**Council Tax Multipliers: Consultation**



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- Do not publish response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If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.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

Local Authority Area(s): [Angus](#)

### **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

**Consultation Questions**

- 1. Do you think that Council Tax in Scotland should be changed to apply increases to the tax on properties in Bands E, F, G, and H?**

Yes/ No/ Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer? [The proposed changes will make the Council Tax less regressive and provide a much needed increase in funding for the public services the Council provides. The Council has never been under more financial strain than it is now and these proposals will alleviate some of that strain and help protect services more than would be the case if the proposals aren't implemented.](#)

**More Information:**

The table below presents current Council Tax charges in Scotland and shows the rate for each band as a proportion of the rates applicable to Band D properties.

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
<b>Scotland Average Council Tax Charge 2023-24</b>	£944	£1,102	£1,259	£1,417	£1,861	£2,302	£2,774	£3,470
<b>Council Tax charges as a proportion of the charge for a property in Band D</b>	0.67	0.78	0.89	1.00	1.31	1.63	1.96	2.45

- 2. The proposal is to increase the Council Tax on properties in Bands E, F, G and H by 7.5%, 12.5%, 17.5% and 22.5% respectively. Do you agree with the levels of increase set out in this proposal?**

Yes/ No/ Don't know

- 3. If you have answered no to Question 2, what do you think the increases to the Council Tax on properties in Bands E, F, G and H should be?**

- The increases should be smaller
- The increases should be greater
- Don't know

- 4. , When should any increases be introduced if the tax on higher band properties is increased as proposed?**

- Full effect from 2024-25
- **Phased-approach over two financial years (2024-25 and 2025-26)**
- Phased-approach over three financial years (2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27)
- Other (Please state)

**More information:**

- Increasing Council Tax on properties in Bands E, F, G and H by 7.5%, 12.5%, 17.5% and 22.5% respectively would increase bills by around £139, £288, £485 and £781 per dwelling in these bands, based on 2023-24 Council Tax rates.
- Changes could take effect from 2024-25, or could be introduced as a phased-approach, with year-on-year increases over a number of financial years (e.g. for Band H a £260 increase in each of the next three financial years starting from 2024-25, such that the full £781 (22.5%) increase does not apply until 2027-28).

**5. Should the Council Tax Reduction scheme be expanded to protect those on lower incomes from any increases to higher band properties?**

Yes/ No/ Don't know

**More information:**

- In 2017, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was expanded to provide relief to households affected by the changes if their income was in the lower half of incomes in Scotland.
- The expanded Council Tax Reduction Scheme relief scheme protected low-income households living in Bands E to H from the increase in their bill caused by the increase in the multipliers, and is still available.

**6. The proportion of properties in each valuation bands E - H varies across the country. This means that some councils would benefit more than others from any increases in council tax in these property bands. Should steps be taken to ensure that all councils benefit proportionately from this policy?**

Yes/ No/ Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer? [We would expect that variations in the additional income able to be generated by Councils across Scotland would be taken into account in the distribution of grant support to Councils.](#)

**More information:**

- If further changes were made to charges for property Bands E to H there would be disproportionate benefits to some council areas where they have more Band E to H properties relative to other councils.

- General Revenue Grant is the main source of funding for local authorities.
- The distribution of General Revenue Grant could be adjusted to ensure the benefits are shared proportionately by all councils.
- This adjustment would mean that any changes would not disproportionately benefit, or disadvantage, any council.

**7. Please tell us how changes to Council Tax rates for properties in Bands E, F, G and H might impact you, or the people your organisation represents?**

**More information:**

We have undertaken initial work to assess the potential impacts of these changes for individuals and communities. We would welcome your views and comments to help us better understand these impacts.

The Council has limited information on the circumstances of individual taxpayers in each Council Tax band so understanding the impacts can only be in general terms.

Only around 3-4% of the Council's Council Tax Reduction caseload are in Bands E to H. Angus also has a lower proportion of CTR claimants relative to population than the Scottish average but this could be impacted by lack of take up rather than not being eligible. It is unlikely therefore that the existing CTR scheme will provide much protection for taxpayers from the proposed changes to multipliers.

The changes are unlikely to be welcomed by the taxpayers affected even if this protects the public services the Council provides. Angus already has one of the lowest Council Tax levels in Scotland (around £100 less than the Scottish average at Band D) so changes to the multipliers will have a smaller effect in Angus than elsewhere.

Angus has a slightly higher proportion of chargeable dwellings in Band E than the Scottish average but a lower proportion in Bands F to H. The Band E changes would affect around 14% of taxpayers some of whom may be on more modest incomes and will therefore be impacted more so than in other bands.

The Council is concerned about the potential impact on taxpayers whose wealth is mainly in their property rather than in available income. While this may affect relatively small numbers of taxpayers it could have a significant impact on those individuals, perhaps forcing a move to a smaller more affordable property.

Set against all of the concerns about the impact on taxpayers is the reality that the Council needs the additional income which the proposals would yield. The financial pressures on the Council have been unprecedented and have endured for many years now. Public services and statutory duties cannot be sustained on the current funding model for local government so changes are required somewhere.

Answer:

Please provide your views

- 8. Please tell us how you think changes to Council Tax rates for properties in Bands E, F, G and H would affect your local area, or Scotland as a whole (please consider social, economic, environment, community, cultural, enterprise impacts that you think are relevant)?**

**More information:**

We have undertaken initial work to assess the potential impacts of these changes for individuals and communities. We would welcome your views and comments to help us better understand these impacts.

Answer:

Please provide your views

Covered in response to Q 7

- 9. Please tell us how you think changes to Council Tax rates for properties in Bands E, F, G and H might affect Island Communities**

**More information:**

- If further changes were made to charges for property Bands E to H there would be disproportionate benefits to some council areas where they have more Band E to H properties relative to other councils.
- General Revenue Grant is the main source of funding for local authorities.
- The distribution of General Revenue Grant could be adjusted to ensure the benefits are shared proportionately by all councils.
- This adjustment would mean that any changes would not disproportionately benefit, or disadvantage, any council.

Answer:

Please provide your views

No Comments

**10. Do you think there would be any equality, human rights, or wellbeing impacts as a result of the proposed increases in Council Tax rates for properties in Bands E, F, G and H ? Please tell us what you think these impacts would be.**

Answer:

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

Wellbeing impacts may arise for some taxpayers depending on their circumstances and ability to pay. These impacts may be lessened by increasing the scope of Council Tax Reduction alongside a change to the multipliers.

There could be an impact on older people who reside in e.g. a large family home in one of the higher bands if their wealth is mainly in property rather than in available income.