



Consultation on a fairer Council Tax

Template response for Scottish Green Party members, prepared by the Edinburgh Greens

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on changes to council tax charges (also referred to as multipliers) for properties in valuation bands E to H. This will change the gap between the different bands, but the amount of Council Tax will still be set by local authorities.

Fill out the consultation here: [Consultation on a fairer Council Tax - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

You don't need to answer all of the questions – we've suggested some things you might want to include in your answers to some of the key questions below but feel free to answer everything, and include your own points. If you are pressed for time, even just responding and answering **YES** to questions 1, 2 and 5 will have a big impact!

After answering the questions, you'll be asked for your name, email address, and whether you are happy for your response to be published. Your name will not be shared unless you give permission.

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?*

A: YES

Please give reasons for your answer.

Possible things to include in your answer:

- You can talk about how current council tax arrangements mean that those in the lower bands pay a higher proportion of the value of their property than those in the higher bands. This reinforces and deepens inequality.
- You can say you believe people in higher bands should pay a higher proportion of the value of their property than those in lower bands, and these changes will achieve that.
- You could talk about how, at a time of the cost-of-living crisis, following over a decade of austerity and real-term cuts to local government, public spending is being stretched further than even.
- You can say that you think Council Tax should be replaced with a more progressive taxation system, but this proposal is a good interim measure to address some of the inequalities in the current system.

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?

A: YES

Please give reasons for your answer.

Possible things to include in your answer:

- You might feel that these increases represent a balanced position which will address the historic unfairness of Council tax banding.
- You could point out that the annual council tax will still be lower than comparative rates in England and Wales.
- You could talk about what band you are currently in and what impact (or not) the changes might have on you. E.g “*I own a band F property and I could afford the projected increases. I think it is right that council tax becomes more progressive*” or “*I own a band C property and couldn’t afford a significant increase. It’s only right that people in higher bands pay more.*”
- You could say that in Edinburgh, the maximum increase will only effect 2% of households.
- You can show that you understand that there are mitigations and support in place for people who cannot pay their Council Tax bill.

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

A: YES

6. 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.

Things you might want to include:

- You might want to talk about what band your property is in, and if these changes will/won’t have an impact on what it might mean.
- If you are a student or Council Tax exempt, you might want to talk about the general principles behind the reform.
- You can also talk about what impact more income for your local authority might mean, for example on services you access.

7. 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).

Things you might want to include:

- You can talk about the general principles of equality and fairness being important for you and for Scotland, and that our taxation system should reflect that

- You can talk about the housing pressures in Edinburgh and how it is unfair to compound that with a regressive tax system.
- You might want to talk about some of the huge challenges facing us, including the climate and nature emergencies, social care demands, increasing poverty and inequality, and the ongoing upkeep of the places we love. Local Councils will be key to tackling many of these issues but need funding to do this.

9. 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?

Things you might want to include:

- *Yes, this will have a positive impact on equality, human rights and wellbeing*
- *You can talk about how Council Tax is regressive; therefore it deepens inequality.*
- *You might want to talk about how the poorest people in society are more likely to be women, people of colour, disabled people, unpaid carers, and migrants and refugees. This means that they are paying more than their fair share through Council Tax.*
- *You can point out that wealthier people tend to live in higher band properties and so can better afford to pay.*
- *You could speak about how poverty and inequality an impact on wellbeing of individuals and countries.*
- *You can mention that there is support in place for people who cannot afford any council tax increases so any impacts on their wellbeing will be mitigated.*