

#### 4. Written Responses – Questions

##### The Government's Proposal

- 1) Do you agree, in principle, that vacant non-household properties should be charged for water, sewerage and drainage services?

Yes  No

A standing charge would be appropriate as then the service infrastructure is being paid for. As it stands not all vacant properties do not contribute to water, sewerage and drainage costs as they are being charged empty rates that covers these items.

- 2) Do you agree that water and sewerage charges for vacant properties should be the same as those for occupied properties regardless of the reason for the vacant status?

Yes  No

To charge the same for non-usage of would be inequitable as vacant properties being charged for non-usage would then be subsidising properties that do use water, sewerage and drainage services. Through a standing charge the vacant properties are contributing to infrastructure costs.

##### **Charges – Drainage Services**

- 3) Do you agree that drainage charges should be the same as those for occupied properties?

Yes  No

Again a standing charge would cover this issue.

##### **Timetable for introduction**

- 4) Do you agree that the current exemption should be removed from 1 April 2017?

Yes  No

A point in time does not alter the principles of what is being proposed.