

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

Comments If the property is vacant no water will be consumed and there will be no requirement to use the sewerage system so there should be no charge levied on vacant properties for these services.

- 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

Comments Commercial property owners do not leave their properties vacant by choice. They are as keen as the Government to see their properties brought back in to economic use as quickly as possible so that both the property and the business conducted from the property can contribute to the Scottish economy. Making commercial property owners pay for services which they are not using in addition to business rates (once the exemption from business rates has expired) is a disincentive to investing in commercial property.

Charges – Drainage Services

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

Yes No

Comments We accept that a vacant property may still make use of surface water drainage so there should be some contribution made to cover this cost.

Timetable for introduction

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

Yes No

Comments