Dear Sir,

We wish to offer our response to the proposed changes to Council Tax.

We have always considered the property-based Council Tax to be wholly iniquitous. The SNP gave many assurances in the past that this tax, which they admitted was unfair, would be abolished and replaced with a fairer tax, such as a local income tax, as soon as they were in a position to do so. They have reneged on their commitment.

It suits this government to continue with the false assumption that the supposed value of a person’s dwelling is an indicator of relative wealth. They know, of course, that often this is far from the case and that someone’s home will likely reflect a lifetime of prudent choices, sacrifices and hard work. But they know that! So perhaps it’s just that Sturgeon has cynically calculated that the bulk of her support comes from voters who reside in properties deemed to be in A – D category. Maybe we are seeing what she means by a “fairer society.”

It seems there is a token concession for those who can prove themselves eligible, according to the calculations of this government. They may see this as a gesture of fairness. We see it as another gross impertinence.

Any changes will, in our view, be more difficult to implement than a local income tax. There is, I believe, already a problem with unpaid Council Tax.

And so is there a reason for avoiding a local income tax? We are forever reading that the First Minister has demanded explanations, clarifications or whatever from Westminster. Is she as fastidious in explaining herself, in this proposed change to Council Tax, to the paying electorate? I have already written to Ms Sturgeon, to ask for an explanation and to express my feelings about a despicable SNP abandonment of a stated policy. I wasn’t really surprised that I didn’t get a reply. Could there be a certain coyness on this issue because, if she introduced a local income tax, many of her supporters, who pay no council tax, would be asked for money? No doubt, too, there will be reassurance in the probability that the targets for these increases will not take to the streets in violent protest. What a pity!

Ian Miller