Local Government and Communities Committee

Consideration of the Council Tax (Substitution of Proportion) (Scotland) Order 2016

Submission from Katherine Keil

I agree that the current system requires reform and that it works to the advantage of the wealthy. I do not think the suggested proposals will make the system uniformly fairer.

I think a local income tax would be fair and easy to administer.

The proposals do not take into consideration ability to pay and variations in house prices in different areas. Our home is in Edinburgh and is Band G. Its "value" has increased incredibly over the time we have lived in it.

My husband and I are retired schoolteachers and have lived in our flat for nearly 20 years. It was in poor condition when we bought it and we improved it through personal effort. We prioritised buying a flat over other expenditure. We did not have high salaries and I am one of the WASPI women born in the 50s whose expected pension date has been twice postponed.

I would like to be able to afford to maintain my home and live in it for as long as I am able. It means a lot to me and I feel the proposed increases could make it impossible for me to continue to live here.

Katherine Keil