LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM FEDERICO BERTON

In terms of the draft Bill, there is nothing in the Bill that addresses my concerns about the inflexible nature of rating legislation on general downturn in economic circumstances and material changes.

In terms of my specific circumstances as a business owner in Aberdeen City, I am in a position where I am paying a vastly disproportionate rates bill when compared with general market activity and revenue.

As I understand it, this is due the general revaluation, Tone date and how it coincided with the general economic downturn in Aberdeen. The direct result is that, like many local ratepayers, Ispiro has found itself paying rates set against much higher rents than prevail and that can be clearly evidenced on the high street.

It is my understanding that legislation is inflexible in this regard and I pay very high rates and will continue to do so until the next revaluation period, despite clear and prolonged changes in the local economy.

This does not benefit local business. Whilst the Scottish Government reports of continuing efforts to increase development and economic growth, this just seems to go directly against their ethos and subjects existing businesses to increased pressures; the only result will be that more businesses will fall in to liquidation. This is something that is already evident across the City.

To conclude, whilst I would welcome the 3 yearly revaluation cycle, the legislation requires more consideration and a more flexible approach to prolonged changes in economies need to be considered.

Yours truly,

Federico Berton
Director
Ispiro LTD