

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EH/06067/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

8 December 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November requesting comments on Petition P-04-609 regarding relief and support for small businesses.

We successfully lobbied the UK Government to again extend Small Business Rate Relief and replicated that in Wales this year. This move means reductions for small firms with many paying no rates at all.

Our actions to support business are wide-ranging, and as Minister with responsibility for business rates policy I have taken a number of additional steps to use the rates regime to support high streets across Wales. This has included capping the business rates multiplier and introducing schemes such as the Wales Retail Relief Scheme, Open for Business Scheme and the Local Needs Scheme.

The Business Rates Panel will be looking at reliefs broadly and I look forward to their findings. A number of other factors will also need to be considered and I will be making a decision on the future of Small Business Rate Relief in due course.

Edwina Hart