

APPENDIX 1c



FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

Chief Fire Officer Neil Odin MBA GFireE MloD
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

T: 023 8214 0081
E: neil.odin@hantsfire.gov.uk

11 August 2020

Mr J Metcalfe
Chief Executive
Isle of Wight Council
County Hall
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

Dear Mr Metcalfe

On behalf of the Fire Authority I would like to thank you for consulting me about proposed changes to Isle of Wight Council's council tax reduction scheme.

I agree that the cost of the scheme needs to be kept within the resources available and I note that the consultation proposes a number of options for changes to the scheme. As the billing authority is responsible for running the scheme, I believe that the Isle of Wight Council is best placed to assess the options and to identify the fairest way forward for Isle of Wight residents. Therefore, I do not wish to comment in detail on the proposed options.

In your letter you also request comments about the volatility of the council tax base and council tax yield. Financial stability is important for the emergency services, so I would prefer the council tax support scheme to be designed in a way which provided this.

Thank you once again for consulting me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Neil Odin', written over a faint blue line.

Neil Odin
Chief Fire Officer

Mr J Metcalfe
Chief Executive
Isle of Wight Council
County Hall
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

03 September 20

Dear Mr Metcalfe,

Thank you for consulting the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) about proposed changes to Isle of Wight Council's council tax reduction scheme. I am responding on his behalf.

The PCC would agree that the cost of the scheme needs to be kept within the resources available. However, the PCC would like the impact on vulnerable groups from any change to be minimised as much as possible.

In your letter you also request comments about the volatility of the council tax base and council tax yield. Financial stability is important for the emergency services, so the PCC would prefer the council tax support scheme to be designed in a way that provided this. A lack of volatility would also show consistency in the ability of council taxpayers to afford bills and thus be an indication that the scheme is fairly designed.

The consultation proposes a number of options for changes to the scheme. As the billing authority is responsible for running the scheme, the PCC believes that Isle of Wight Council is best placed to know the circumstances of existing recipients and thus what the fairest changes are. Therefore, the PCC does not wish to comment in detail on the proposed options, other than noting that he would most favour those that best meet the general principles set out above.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Lowe
Chief Finance Officer
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner