

Minister for
Treasury and Resources

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Connétable D Mezbourian
Chairman, Comité des Connétables
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14th of February 2020

Dear Deidre,

Many thanks for your letter of 18 November 2019. My apologies for the delay in replying but I have been giving this matter careful consideration.

I note that the nine Connétables present at the Committee meeting unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Rates Working Group ("the RWG"); that there should not be a revaluation of property in Jersey for rates purposes. From the data available to the RWG, it was clear that the monetary adjustment of a revaluation would be small for most ratepayers, whereas the potential cost of undertaking a revaluation would be high. I note that this was an important factor in the recommendations arrived at by the RWG.

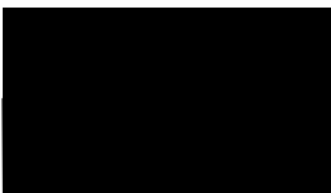
I agree with the decision of the Comité des Connétables to accept the recommendations of the RWG and I am content that the RWG report is published.

However, I also note the important agreed finding of the RWG:

"The fact that market rents change whilst rateable values are fixed creates a risk of unfairness. If it is determined that rateable values should always relate to the rental value then some ratepayers could be paying too much and some ratepayers paying too little."

The effect created by this historic link between rental values and rateable values is something that would have to be addressed in any future work on Jersey's property rates regime.

Yours sincerely



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