

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rishi Sunak MP
Minister for Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
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31 October 2018

Dear Rishi,

BUSINESS RATES APPEALS

As you will be aware, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has, as part of its wider work on 100% business rates retention, and based on the evidence it has received, raised concerns about the significant backlog of business rates appeals from the 2010 rating list, as well as the resourcing of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and the operation of Check Challenge Appeal (CCA).

The Government's response to our April 2018 report, *Business rates retention, Fifth Report of Session 2017-19*, set out helpful data on cleared and unresolved appeals and the operation of CCA during its first 12 months. However, we were concerned to see low numbers of users registering, and making 'checks' and 'challenges'; by way of example, 23,770 'checks' were made in 2017-18 compared to 125,110 appeals lodged in 2016-17. We also note that the CCA process resulted in only 5 appeals to the Valuation Tribunal in 2017-18, a figure which appears low compared to the 2620 challenges made, and we would be grateful if you could explain the reasons for this.

We also would be grateful if you could provide us with your assessment of the reasons for the apparently low engagement of users with CCA, as well as your overall assessment of the efficacy of its operation so far. We have written to the Valuation Office Agency on similar terms, requesting current data on unresolved appeals and checks, challenges and appeals, and information on user satisfaction levels.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards



Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee