

From the Office of the  
Minister for Finance & Personnel



Department of  
**Finance and  
Personnel**

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Your reference: JH/LP

Our reference: COR/967/2009

Liam Steele  
Head of Committee & Members Services  
Belfast City Council  
Belfast City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

4 December 2009

Dear Mr Steele

Thank you for your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 to Sammy Wilson regarding your concern that the Council is being asked to pay for an exercise you feel should be undertaken by Land & Property Services (LPS). The Minister has read your letter and has asked me to reply.

He has noted your concerns but, unfortunately, given the current budget pressures it is not possible for funding to be provided for this exercise. The Minister understands this concerns a total of 272 properties where the Council, rather than LPS, would be more effective in collecting the full information required to issue a rates bill.

The Minister has been assured that LPS will continue to carry out property inspections of the other properties on the Valuation List either regarded as vacant, or where there is insufficient information to enable a rates bill to issue.

Given the considerable potential revenue gains for both district and regional rates the Minister is pleased to note the increasing level of cooperation between the Council and LPS to gather the information required to enable rates bills to issue.

Yours sincerely

**SIOBHAN TWEEDIE**  
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SAMMY WILSON MP MLA

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- 9 DEC 2009			
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