

From the Office of the
Minister for Finance & Personnel



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**

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Your reference:

Our reference: AQW15675/11-15

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CORRECTION TO AQW 15675/11-15

You recently asked, in assembly question AQW 15675/11-15, how many businesses in (i) Lurgan; and (ii) Portadown centres have benefited from the recent non-domestic rates initiatives. In my answer I stated that "As at 21st October 2012, there were 360 businesses in Craigavon Borough Council which have benefited from the recently introduced 20% rate of Small Business Rate Relief. To date no properties in Craigavon Borough Council has benefited from either the Empty Premises Relief or the Shop Window Display relief which also commenced on 1st April 2012."

My officials have recently carried out some validation checks on these figures and have discovered that the numbers of properties were incorrectly stated. I apologise that the information you received was incorrect.

Given the interest expressed in this topic, the table below provides corrected and updated information on properties getting Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) at 20% and Empty Premises Relief for all 26 District Council areas.

Table 1: Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) at 20% and Empty Premises Relief by District Council area as at 31st October 2012

District Council	No of properties getting:	
	Empty Premises Relief	SBRR (20%)
Antrim	0	244
Ards	1	318
Armagh	2	258
Ballymena	0	302
Ballymoney	1	124
Banbridge	0	194
Belfast	5	1,628
Carrickfergus	1	131
Castlereagh	0	241
Coleraine	0	294
Cookstown	1	191
Craigavon	2	359
Derry	7	513
Down	2	360
Dungannon & South Tyrone	0	313
Fermanagh	1	311
Larne	1	106
Limavady	1	131
Lisburn	1	581
Magherafelt	2	201
Moyle	0	70
Newry & Mourne	5	467
Newtownabbey	2	357
North Down	3	391
Omagh	3	251
Strabane	2	157
Northern Ireland	43	8,493

I have copied this letter to the Speaker and all MLAs. A copy has also been placed in the library.



SAMMY WILSON MP MLA