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LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR



Andrew Dismore AM

Date: 23 February 2017

Dear Mr Hammond,

Re: Business rate revaluation

I am writing to express my deep reservations over the revaluation of business rates, which will have a severely detrimental impact on my constituency of Barnet and Camden. Barnet will suffer a valuation increase of 12% and Camden a whopping 30%. This is an unreasonable burden on local businesses at a time of great economic uncertainty and difficulty.

With the impact of the Brexit vote, the damage austerity is doing to our communities, and eye watering increases in the cost of rent, increases to business rates are an unwelcome quadruple-whammy. According to the FSB, 27% of our small and medium enterprises are considering closing down. This would represent a disaster for jobs, high streets, councils and the quality of life in Barnet and Camden.

I strongly urge you to respond positively to the calls of Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, to put in place measures to cap any rises and provide additional relief for London, where the economy is different from the rest of the country.

Unfortunately, the only way councils can mitigate against these steep rises is through cutting rates themselves. Given the deeply harsh cuts to Local Government funding, not least in London, that is an unrealistic and impractical suggestion, which would have a severe detrimental impact on other public services and worsen the already severe social care crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Dismore".

Andrew Dismore AM

Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden