

Business Rate Revaluation and Trade Waste

Business rate revaluation

Health Boards are seeking business rate revaluation hoping for a general reduction in *their* expenditure following a recent High Court ruling.

Any revision of business rates will not have an impact on individual practices as these are fully reimbursed by Health Boards.

Only the business owner can apply for such revaluation, and in those cases where the Health Board has achieved consent some years ago (before they threatened to cease trade waste payments) it is still within the gift of the business owner to refuse access to premises for valuation purposes unless it is convenient for the very busy practice.

If the Health Boards achieve a business rate reduction we would expect them to use part of this money to reimburse trade waste and plough the rest into GMS.

There has been no correspondence from Health Boards to say this is what they would do with any monies saved from business rate reduction.

Trade Waste

Councils withdrew from providing trade waste disposal, without notice and without reduction in business rates.

Many Councils privatised their trade waste services, and these payments in Wales, at least, have been reimbursed by Health Boards.

Welsh Government are now threatening to discontinue these payments, as they do not specifically appear in the Premises Payments Direction. Yet, we contend that these were part of the business rate when this Direction was written. ***Through no fault of our own, our refunded business rates no longer covered the trade waste.***

Our negotiation stance

If Health Boards guarantee to pay for trade waste (which we contend was originally included in the business rate) and guarantee to put savings back into GMS and we will encourage practices to comply.

What we need from you

Consider the above information carefully

Letters have been sent from some HBs saying our advice is wrong – ***IT IS NOT!*** We have always accepted the High Court judgement and the potential for Health Board savings **BUT** any review requires the business owner's co-operation. Given proposal to impose trade waste charges directly on practices then practices need to consider the stance they wish to take.

GPC Wales May 2015