

**MINUTE OF THE SCOTTISH  
RATEPAYERS' FORUM  
Held via MS TEAMS  
On 27 June 2024 at 10 am**

**Present**

Heather Honeyman (SAA President), Robert Nicol (SAA Secretary), Brian Rout (SAA), William McFarlane (SAA), Kevin Fraser (IRRV), David Lonsdale (Scottish Retail Consortium), Michelle McGlynn (SCTS First Tier Tribunal), Janet Kane (SCTS Upper Tribunal), Stephen Montgomery (Scottish Hospitality Group), Anouk Berthier (Scottish Government), Sandra Reid (Scottish Government), Gary Clark (Federation of Small Businesses),

**1.0 Apologies and Introductions**

Leon Thompson (BHA), Jamie Mackie (Scottish Grocers' Federation), Luke McGarty (Scottish Grocers' Federation), Claire Mack (Scottish Renewables), Marc Crothall (Scottish Tourism Alliance), Stephen McIntosh (Scottish Water), Robert Toomey (RICS), Ian Storrie (Scottish Government),

H Honeyman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised of changes to the membership of the SAA Executive since the last SRF meeting.

**2.0 Minute of previous meeting of 22 September 2023**

**2.1 Accuracy**

The minute of previous meeting was approved. The minute will be published at the SAA Portal.

**2.2. Matters arising not on agenda**

No matters not covered by the agenda.

**3.0 2005, 2010 & 2017 Revaluation and Running Roll**

**3.1 First Tier Tribunal**

**i) Running Roll Appeals**

M McGlynn advised that the remaining 2017 appeals at the First Tier Tribunal will be scheduled for hearings up to the end of the year with advance notice of hearing dates available on the website.

**ii) Covid MCC Appeals**

The Tribunal have a backlog of withdrawals that they are currently processing

### **3.2 Lands Valuation Appeal Court Cases**

Nothing to report.

### **3.3 Upper Tribunal update and cases**

J Kane reported that there were 575 appeals with the Upper Tribunal of which around 500 are sisted. There are 51 cases where a response is awaited from the appellant. The legal member will shortly be reviewing the outstanding cases with a view to agreeing priorities and when hearings may take place.

## **4.0 2023 Revaluation**

### **4.1. Proposal Disposal Scheduling**

H Honeyman reported that the proposal disposal schedule for national practice notes was now published on the SAA portal, and that Assessors were working on issuing decision notices before the statutory deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

### **4.2 First Tier Tribunal update**

M McGlynn reported that the tribunal had received 324 appeals from the 2023 Revaluation, mainly for schools.

## **5.0 2026 Revaluation**

H Honeyman asked that the meeting participants encourage their members to complete and return any Assessor Information Notices that are received. The information is vital in ensuring that accurate valuations are published for the next Revaluation. In response to requests from D Lonsdale and S Montgomery it was agreed that the SAA could supply appropriate wording for newsletters and other communications that could be used by organisations. In response to a suggestion by A Bertier the SAA will investigate the possibility of establishing a LinkedIn account as a further method of communication.

## **6.0 SAA Issues Log**

The SAA issues log was noted.

## **7.0 Scottish Water**

No update from Scottish Water.

## **8.0 Scottish Government**

### **8.1 Policy Update**

A Berthier provided an update on Scottish Government matters. She advised the following:

The New Deal for Business Group continues to meet, the next meeting is in September, there are two new task teams, net zero and also looking at the potential for fee charging for submitting a rating appeal.

There are two statutory instruments being laid making minor technical changes around making proposals and appeals and also the deadline for dealing with proposals. These will be available on the Scottish Government NDR webpage along with the 'Short Guide to NDR'

D Lonsdale and S Montgomery mentioned the fair work agenda and Business Rates relief, this is likely to be discussed at the next New Deal for Business meeting.

**9.0 AOCB**

None.

**10.0 Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed. Likely Beginning of October.