

9 March 2010

Tolson slams eye-watering business rates rise!

Liberal Democrats have revealed that business rates for many Scottish hotels are set to rise by tens of thousands of pounds on April 1 this year. Many of Scotland's most famous hotels alongside hundreds of others across the country face massive increases in business rates from 1st April.

The hotel and hospitality industry have been particularly hard hit with the 2010 revaluation based on their turnover in 2008.

Commenting, Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West said:

“We want to see a transitional period so our local hotels don't suffer the full force of these rate rises. We know that the First Minister doesn't set the value of every hotel but his Government has chosen to hit hotels, such as The Garvock House Hotel, with the full increase in just one year.

Previous administrations have brought major changes like this in slowly, over a period of time. The UK Government is doing the same.

At a time of deep recession, the SNP are hitting the tourism industry in Fife and throughout Scotland hard. On April 1, Scottish hotels will be stunned by painful rises in their business rates.

Mr. Salmond can't take Scotland's hotel industry for April Fools. I have written to the First Minister pointing out just how hard he is hitting some of our successful businesses and wait now for a response! The hotel and hospitality businesses need to be treated fairly.”

Ends