



The government committed to conduct a fundamental review of business rates and published the terms of reference for the review at the Spring Budget. They launched the review in July but I have only just come across it! There is an initial closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> September (this Friday), so apologies for the late notice.

This call for evidence seeks views on how the business rates system currently works, issues to be addressed, ideas for change and a number of alternative taxes.

The government is aware that many businesses and stakeholders may need extra time to engage fully with all of the issues in the call for evidence and so is seeking responses in two phases. They welcome views on the multiplier and reliefs sections, by 18 September, to inform an interim report in the Autumn. Responses on all other sections are invited by 31 October, ahead of the review's conclusion in Spring 2021. The document and the online survey can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hm-treasury-fundamental-review-of-business-rates-call-for-evidence>

## COVID TESTING

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING – THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE ADVICE ISSUED LAST WEEK.

From Monday 14 September, due to the problems affecting the national testing system Rochdale Council is no longer able to test people who have no symptoms.

Rochdale borough residents who are showing **symptoms** can get a coronavirus test, whatever their age.

The local booking line has been closed at the request of government, and residents must book through the NHS website ([www.nhs.co.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.co.uk/coronavirus)) or by calling 119.

Residents are also being advised that if they have difficulty booking an appointment at their local testing site they should keep trying as appointments slots are released throughout the day.

Regards

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**VIRUS ISSUES:** Rochdale Development Agency have made every effort to virus check information sent via e-mail. Rochdale Development Agency cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage that may occur from use of attached material. We recommend recipients re-check all attached material with their own virus check software.