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**From:** Chris Highcock  
**Sent:** 07 September 2012 14:55  
**To:** David Haxton  
**Subject:** FW: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting  
**Attachments:** ATT4815907.htm; L-Trams-Lesley Hinds-Aug 12.doc  
  
**Importance:** High

for info

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Chris Highcock | Corporate Projects Manager (Depute Returning Officer) / Tram Communications | The City of Edinburgh Council | Waverley Court, G.1 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | ☎: [REDACTED] | ✉ Tram Enquiries: [trams@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:trams@edinburgh.gov.uk) Mobile: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Chris Highcock  
**Sent:** 07 September 2012 14:54  
**To:** Alan Howie  
**Cc:** Jim Davidson; Cliff Dryburgh  
**Subject:** FW: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting  
**Importance:** High

Alan,

Please see below a draft response for Cllr Hinds to send to the attached letter from Mr Robertson re his non domestic rates. I have been unable to speak to Cliff Dryburgh who has been on leave, but did speak to the Manager of NDR who advised that it is not likely that we could act on his proposal. It would set a precedent, could have significant revenue implications and would be unfair to businesses previously affected who have been unable to claim such a reduction and (may since have stopped trading.)

You may wish to discuss with Cliff on Monday (he is copied in) If you have any queries about this can you discuss with Jim Davidson, since I am on leave for the next 2 weeks

Chris

**DRAFT**

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Dear Mr Robertson

**Edinburgh Trams – West End Construction Group: Follow-Up to the 7<sup>th</sup> August Meeting**

I write with reference to your letter of 20 August concerning the above. May I apologise first of all for the delay in providing you with a response to the points that you make. In your letter you discuss the issue of adjustments in the rates payable on premises of businesses affected by the impact of tram works. I hope that you will be aware of the letters that the Tram Team in the Council distributed over the weekend to traders with frontages onto the Tram works in the city. These were highlighting a proposed offer by the

**CEC01918103\_0001**

Assessor for a reduction in Rateable Value on the basis of the impact on business of the ongoing Tram works. I was allowing those letters to be distributed before I responded to the specific further points that you raised.

In your letter you make a case that over and above any adjustment to Rateable Value that might be offered by the Assessor, as you believed that there was an argument for a relief in rates on the model of the reduction which is applied to vacant properties, which would be the fall back position if businesses cease trading, which gives 3 months relief at 100% followed by 50% reduction. While the Rateable Value is a matter for the Assessor the charging of rates on a property, on the basis of that Value, as you point out is the decision of the Council.

While I am very sympathetic to the case that you make regarding had on your business I am afraid that the Council is not able to apply this reduction to your rates. The vacant property reduction regarding the impact that the Tram works have for specific circumstances that do not apply in your case. Creating another similar level of reduction would need to be on the basis of a Council decision through the relevant committee and in considering such a proposal they would need to take account both of the revenue impact for the city and also of the precedent that would be set. In addition there would need to be a consideration of previous practice. Such a reduction has not been applied to other businesses on the Tram route over recent years and it would not be appropriate or fair to those other businesses to introduce it at this point.

I would stress that I do recognise the challenges that have been posed to businesses as a consequence of the Tram works and realise how much we rely on the continued patience of the business community as we make progress with the project. You will also be aware of the work that we are doing to make it clear that the city centre, and particularly the West End, remains open for business as we encourage people to visit for our shops and events. Every effort is being made to minimise the impact on businesses but I am afraid that your proposal with respect to rates can not be pursued. The Tram will contribute to a more prosperous City, stimulating the economy along the route. This might seem like a "jam tomorrow" promise when you are suffering now, but I would assure you that we do wish to offer as much support as we can. Unfortunately the action on rates that you suggest would be beyond what we are able to provide at this point.

Yours sincerely

Chris Highcock | Corporate Projects Manager (Depute Returning Officer) / Tram Communications | The City of Edinburgh Council | Waverley Court, G.1 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | (: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | \* Tram Enquiries: trams@edinburgh.gov.uk Mobile: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Hill On Behalf Of Trams  
Sent: 04 September 2012 11:40

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To: Chris Highcock  
Subject: FW: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting  
Importance: High

Do you have an update should have been responded to 03/09

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-----Original Message-----

From: David Haxton On Behalf Of Trams  
Sent: 31 August 2012 12:22  
To: Chris Highcock  
Subject: RE: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting

Hi Chris,

This will be one of your rates responses you could use, but I am assuming you will want to modify it with letters going out today?

Regards,

David Haxton

David Haxton | Customer Services Manager | Tram Co-ordination Team | City of Edinburgh Council

9 Lochside Avenue | Edinburgh Park | Edinburgh | EH12 9DJ

Tel: [REDACTED]

david.haxton@edinburgh.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Highcock  
Sent: 22 August 2012 21:00  
To: Trams  
Subject: FW: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting

Chris Highcock | Depute Returning Officer | Department of Corporate Governance | City of Edinburgh Council | Level 3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | Tel: [REDACTED] |

-----Original Message-----

From: Lesley Hinds  
Sent: Wed 8/22/2012 8:56 PM  
To: Chris Highcock  
Cc: Jim Davidson; Alan Howie  
Subject: Fwd: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting

**CEC01918103\_0003**

Could I get a response to Mr Robertsons e-mail?

Lesley

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Thomas Robertson <t.f.robertson@btinternet.com>

> Date: 20 August 2012 23:28:55 GMT+01:00

> To: lesley.hinds@edinburgh.gov.uk

> Subject: Edinburgh Trams - Follow-Up to 07 Aug 2012 Meeting

>

>

> Lesley

> Some notes attached following the West End Construction Group meeting.

>

> Regards

> Tom Robertson

> Fastframe - Shandwick Place