

**MINUTE OF THE SCOTTISH
RATING SURVEYORS' FORUM
Held via MS Teams
On 14 July 2020 at 14.00**

Present

Gary Bennett (SAA Vice President), Anouk Berthier (Scottish Government), Andy Boal (Shepherds), Collette Brough (Whitelaw Baikie Figes), Louise Daly (Colliers), Gordon Fettes (Knight Frank), Richard Foster (FG Burnett), Kevin Fraser (IRRV), Lorna Greig (Ryden), Michael Harkin (BNP Paribas), Graham Howarth (Gerald Eve), Derek Kidd (GL Hearn), Alastair Kirkwood **Chair** (SAA President), Billy McKaig (WYM), Gordon Martin (Avison Young), , Ken McCormack (Montagu Evans), Ian Milton (SAA Past President), Niall Rankin (JLL), Brian Rogan (CBRE), Ian Storrie (Scottish Government), Pete Wildman (SAA Secretary).

1. Apologies

Neil Hemings (Scottish Government Water Services Unit), Roger Littlewood (Tesco), Stephen McIntosh (Scottish Water), Peter Wilkinson (Savills).

2. Minute of previous meeting of 6 March 2020

2a. Accuracy

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

2b. Matters arising not on agenda

There were no matters arising that were not on the Agenda

3. 2005 & 2010 Revaluation and 2010 Running Roll

3a. Appeals Update

A Kirkwood noted that the position remained unchanged since the last meeting in so far as all outstanding 2005 and 2010 revaluation and running roll appeals, with the exception of the small hydro appeals are currently at the Lands Tribunal.

3b. Lands Tribunal Update and Cases

It was agreed that the list of appeals at the Lands Tribunal is to be updated and recirculated to Forum members. A further column is to be added to the spreadsheet to allow for any comments. If there are any inaccuracies then Forum members should communicate these to A Kirkwood. Once the list has been compiled then engagement should take place with the Lands Tribunal to ensure that the list aligns with their list of appeals that have been referred. **Action A Kirkwood.**

3c. Lands Valuation Appeal Court Cases

No Update

4. 2017 Revaluation

4a. Appeal Progress & Disposal Deadlines

A Kirkwood provided an update as to appeal progress but noted the impact of the current pandemic.

A discussion took place on the number of Revaluation appeals to be disposed of within the statutory period and the potential for that period to be extended and the interaction between this and the 2022 Revaluation.

5. 2017 MCC Appeals

5a. Appeal Volumes & Disposal Deadlines

A Kirkwood advised that around 50,000 MCC appeals that had been lodged on the grounds of the effect of the current pandemic and that the majority of them had been lodged within the last two weeks of March. K McCormack noted that dealing with these within the current statutory timetable would be an enormous task. A Kirkwood observed that evidence would be needed to justify any change in value. A general discussion took place over the possible approach to the disposal of these appeals

I Storrie asked that if there were any views on extending the statutory timetable these should be provided to the Scottish Government by 10 August 2020.

6. 2022 Revaluation

A Kirkwood sought the views of the group, in the light of the pandemic, whether there should be a change to the tone date for the next Revaluation.

A discussion then took place on the issue, during which a variety of views were expressed with the benefits of the timetable continuing as prescribed versus the quality and quantity of evidence available at tone being highlighted. No clear consensus emerged from the discussions. I Storrie indicated that the Scottish Government would consider all views before reaching a decision on the matter.

In response to a question A Kirkwood advised that the SAA had started to prepare for the Revaluation.

7. Information Gathering & Civil Penalties

A Kirkwood noted that one of the principle outcomes of the Barclay review was the need for the flow of information to Assessors to be improved. He also noted that the appeal regulations relating to Civil Penalties had yet to be finalised. I Storrie advised that the draft Regulations are scheduled to be shared with BIAG Appeals Sub Group on 10 August 2020, these will reflect comments from stakeholders, it is hoped that this will be laid in Parliament by October 2020.

L Daly asked how the VOA's VORC scheme interacted with the new AIN framework in Scotland. I Milton advised that VORC information relating to Scotland was shared

with Assessors. A Kirkwood stressed that the SAA was open to the provision of information to avoid the need to issue AINs.

8. SAA Action Plan and Issues Log

No matters were raised in connection to these documents.

9. Scottish Water

No report provided for the meeting. G Martin highlighted an issue with premises undergoing redevelopment and A Kirkwood noted that it was not a matter for the SAA.

10. Scottish Government

10a. Policy Update

I Storrie noted that an update had already been provided on the position with the Civil Penalty Appeal Regulations. He advised that the letter from the Scottish Government to all Proprietors, Tenants and Occupiers will need to be updated prior to issue to reflect any changes arising from the current pandemic.

A discussion then took place on the processes for the issue of grants and reliefs relating to the current pandemic and in particular the classification of subjects that qualify for these.

B Rogan highlighted an issue with the 2020/21 bills from Glasgow City Council. I Storrie undertook to contact Glasgow City Council about this. **Action I Storrie**

11. AOCB

A Kirkwood advised the Forum that the SAA Portal mapping functionality was now operational and that if anyone noted any issues with any of the data to let the relevant Assessor know.

B McKaig enquired whether there were any plans to amend reliefs for empty properties that were still furnished. I Storrie advised that the Scottish Government were unlikely to amend the existing provisions.

B Rogan highlighted an issue with the wording of Valuation Notices in relation to lodging appeals on the grounds of error. I Storrie undertook to look into this.

12. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date of next meeting would be best scheduled for some time at that start of 2021.