

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S NON DOMESTIC RATES APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Minute of Meeting of the Resources Committee's Non Domestic Rates Appeals Committee held in the Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday, 26 November, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

**PRESENT:**

Mr B Fernie  
Mr A MacKinnon  
Mr J Gray

Officials in Attendance:-

Mrs T Batchelor, Solicitor, Corporate Development Service (Adviser to the Committee)  
Mrs K Bevilacqua, Solicitor, Finance Service ( Management Side)  
Mrs R Wheeler, Rating Officer, Finance Service (Management Side)  
Mr S O' Rourke, Advocate (Appellant's Side)  
Mr I McDougall, Senior Solicitor MBM Commercial (Appellant's Side)  
Mr B Murison, Revenues Manager (observer)  
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service (Clerk)

**Mr B Fernie in the Chair**

**BUSINESS**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Ms J Campbell and Mr J McGillivray.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Exclusion of the Public**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### 4. Non Domestic Rates Appeal

There had been circulated a written Statement of Case prepared by the Finance Service, a written Statement of Case prepared by the Appellant's Side, and a copy of the Code of Practice for Non Domestic Rates Appeals of The Highland Council.

The Chairman welcomed both parties to the meeting, and in accordance with the Appeals Procedure, Mrs K Bevilacqua, Solicitor presented the Finance Service's case, during which a witness was called and heard. Thereafter, the Appellant's Side presented their case to the Committee.

Following questioning and after the Finance Service and the Appellant's Side had summed up their respective cases, both parties withdrew to allow the Committee to deliberate in private.

Having given careful consideration to the various issues raised, the Committee **AGREED** that the grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal be not upheld.

The meeting ended at 2.55 p.m.