

For the website:

## Banking

Do you miss having easy access to a bank and the chance to do your business with a person? If so, you may be interested to learn that the Government is looking into access to face to face banking services:

[Government reviews access to face to face banking services - GOV.UK](#)

This review is chaired by Richard Lloyd OBE and is interested to know of any difficulties in accessing your bank face to face; any banking hubs in your area, or any community banking facilities that may be available.

Access to cash is protected by legislation, but that does not seem to stop banks from closing branches. This review will enable the Treasury to determine what other legislation should be in place.

The review will be discussed in October this year, but please give your own experiences as soon as you can by emailing:

[acesstobankingservices@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:acesstobankingservices@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

or writing to:

Lucy Rigby, KC MP  
Access to Banking Services Review  
H M Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

## Mansion Tax:

There is a consultation on how the High Value Council Tax Surcharge (Mansion Tax) raised in the last budget will impact on households with property worth over £2million. **The consultation ends on 14 July.** The following is the substance of the consultation.

### Overview of the Mansion Tax Consultation

The UK government is currently conducting a public consultation on the High Value Council Tax Surcharge, commonly referred to as the mansion tax. This consultation is crucial for shaping the implementation of the new tax on residential properties valued at £2 million and above in England.

### Key Details

- **Consultation Duration:** The consultation is open until **14 July 2026**.
- **Purpose:** To gather feedback on the design and implementation of the High Value Council Tax Surcharge (HVCTS).
- **Target Audience:** The government is seeking input from homeowners, local government officials, tax experts, and legal professionals.
- **Consultation Focus Areas**  
The consultation will cover several important aspects, including:
  - **Tax Structure:** How the surcharge will be calculated and applied.
  - **Valuation Process:** Methods for assessing property values, which will be based on market values as of April 2026.
  - **Exemptions and Reliefs:** Potential exemptions for certain property owners and relief options for those who may struggle to pay.

- **Appeals Process:** Establishing a system for property owners to contest their valuations.

### **Importance of Participation**

Engaging in this consultation is vital for stakeholders, as the feedback will directly influence the final design of the HVCTS. Homeowners, especially those with properties near the £2 million threshold, should consider participating to ensure their views are represented.

For more information or to submit responses, participants can visit the official consultation page

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/high-value-council-tax-surcharge/high-value-council-tax-surcharge>

or contact:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government,  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

The NPC will be making a generic submission based on evidence that older homeowners are asset rich, cash poor. We will also be asking for clear pathways for older people to engage other than online; a dignified approach to the issues of older home owners; and a robust appeals procedure that is easy to access and follow.

### **Freeview**

Freeview: Attached are letters to and from the Minister in relation to the proposal to end Freeview post 2034. Please encourage your members to look at the consultation document (long though it is) and respond by the closing date of **31 August 2026**. The Green Paper consultation paper can be accessed at: [Watch this space: a new strategic direction for UK media - green paper and public consultation - GOV.UK](#)