

How to challenge **Your Council Tax band:** a step-by-step guide

London, March 2025 – With Council Tax bills being issued across England and Wales, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) anticipates a surge in challenges from homeowners questioning their Council Tax bands. The VOA, responsible for ensuring the accuracy of tax bands for 27 million properties, has released a step-by-step guide to help citizens navigate the challenge process.

Key Points:

- **Council Tax Band Challenges Expected to Rise:** As homeowners receive their bills, an increase in challenges is anticipated in the coming months.
- **Types of Challenges:**
 - **Proposals** – Homeowners can submit a **formal proposal** if they have been paying Council Tax for **less than six months**, if the VOA has changed their band in the last six months, or if there have been **physical changes in the local area**. The VOA is legally required to review proposals.
 - **Band Reviews** – Those who have paid Council Tax for **over six months** and believe their band is incorrect can request an **informal review**. While not legally required, the VOA considers reviews where strong evidence supports a change.
- **Checking Your Band:** Homeowners can verify their Council Tax bands on GOV.UK and compare them with similar properties in the neighborhood.
- **Providing Evidence:** Challenges require supporting evidence, including comparable property details based on **location, type, age, and size**. For England, property sales between **April 1, 1989 – March 31, 1993** are considered valid evidence, while for Wales, the period is **April 1, 2001 – March 31, 2003**.
- **Submission Process:** Challenges can be submitted online, via email, or by post.
- **Potential Outcomes:** A property's band may increase, decrease, or remain unchanged. If a band adjustment is made, neighboring properties might also be reviewed.
- **Council Tax Payment Obligations:** While awaiting a decision, homeowners **must continue paying their bills** to avoid penalties or legal action.

As the VOA handles a high volume of inquiries during this period, **priority is given to legal challenges** (proposals) over informal band reviews. More details and official guidance can be found on **GOV.UK**.

