

# Message spelled out to PM

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## ***Message spelled out to PM***

*A BUSINESSMAN has a clear message for Prime Minister Gordon Brown when it comes to business rates. In fact, David Flood, of Flood Properties & Development, based on Queensferry Industrial Estate, Pentre, has spelled out his message in meter-high yellow lettering on the company's car park.*

*It reads: "Mr Brown empty property rates is a bad tax at the worst possible time."*

*Mr Flood, who owns the Queensferry Industrial Estate as well as units at Rectors Lane, Pentre, was furious when the Government introduced new laws on business property rates in April.*

*He is so outraged he decided to have the message painted last week and hopes it will eventually appear on aerial pictures on the Google Earth website.*

*Business rates were previously charged at 50% for empty premises, but since April the sum must be paid in full.*

*But Mr Flood has come up with a way to "beat the Government at their own game".*

*Along with his daughter Kate, Mr Flood has launched a company called Rateable Value Ltd which helps cut the cost of business rates on empty properties.*

*The company agrees a short-term lease on the empty property and, after the lease is up, the owner is entitled to a rate free period.*

*Retail premises are allowed three months rate-free and industrial premises are give six months before being charged.*

*Commercial landlords can visit the company's website at [www.rateablevalue.co.uk](http://www.rateablevalue.co.uk) to calculate how much they can save.*

*Mr Flood said: "We think this is a bad law and feel very strongly about it. Businesses have to be very careful about their outgoings at this time of economic downturn."*

*Mr Flood has recruited outside telephone operative company 365 Contact, in Ewloe to man Rateable Value's phone lines and is installing a computerised system to cope with the expected high demand.*

*He added: "I have had a lot of encouragement from politicians and the Confederation of British Industry. We are playing the Government at their own game."*

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