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30/3/1971

45,000 seek rate reductions

About 45,000 valid proposals for reductions in the new rateable values had been received by the Rating and Valuation Department when the stipulated objection period ended last Friday.

A department spokesman said yesterday that the proposals represented 10 per cent of the 450,000 assessments in the new lists.

He said the department will take about three months to deal with the proposals and ratepayers are unlikely to start receiving notices of

decision for several weeks.

The proposals will be sorted as to blocks, streets and districts and the valuations re-examined by district valuers in the light of any new relevant facts to which attention has to be drawn.

When the examination is completed, cases will be considered by an officer (not below the rank of senior rating and valuation surveyor) who will make the final decision, the spokesman said:

"If a ratepayer is

dissatisfied with the decision, he may appeal to the Lands Tribunal within 21 days of receipt of the notice of decision."

"No appeal is possible unless a proposal has been served and a notice of decision issued," he said.

The spokesman reminded ratepayers that, notwithstanding the lodging of a proposal or appeal, rates must be paid and if not paid by the due date the collectors would add a surcharge.