Submission from Anonymous

To whom it may concern:
Here is my response to the "Attainment of school pupils with a Sensory Impairment" call for evidence as requested.

At present I support pupils in a VI service attached to a mainstream school with 16 pupils with a visual impairment attending the school. I also support pupils with a visual impairment on a peripatetic role across North and South Lanarkshire.

Areas of concern where improvements could be made are as follows:

**ICT and Technology**
- Access to ICT could be improved. Primary schools could do with having a server so that staff and pupils' work can be accessed on any computer in the school.
- Financial issues making purchasing apps and resources a paper chase and more difficult to acquire. (separate VI budget is now added onto associated school budget)
- Inadequate training for ICT, especially with Support Staff in supporting the pupils.
- ICT support for maintaining ipads and computers etc is very slow and time consuming to organise.
- Many pupils do not have access to computers and internet at home.

**Trained Staff/Qualified Heads of Service**
- Visual Impairment is such a specialised job, it is difficult when managed by staff who are unqualified and therefore do not understand what is involved. This is especially important for staff to have someone knowledgeable to consult with due to the complexity of certain cases.
- This is especially important now as teachers of sensory impairments need someone to advocate for their department within various schools and authorities.

**Lack of Resources**
- in particular the mainstream school who support primary pupils with a VI in my authority only have one small classroom to store all resources and to work individually with pupils. This can be problematic when several pupils require one-to-one support away from the noisy classroom environment. This defeats the purpose when there are several pupils and teachers working in the one area.
- Mobility support could be better with more regular visits and better liaison between education.
- Some pupils receive reduced support due to VI staff being used to cover other areas within the school.
- Access to textbooks could be improved as they are not all available on Load to Learn.