



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dr Janet Brown
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via email:

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

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Dear Dr Brown

Proposed removal of charitable relief from mainstream independent schools

The Committee is currently scrutinising the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill. As you may know, section 10 of the Bill removes eligibility to qualify for ratings relief from most “mainstream” independent schools, as discussed further in the Policy Memorandum accompanying the Bill. Amongst those responses to the Committee’s call for written evidence on the Bill which have focussed on section 10 is one from Mr Melvyn Roffe of George Watson’s College, Edinburgh, which has been published and is available via this link:

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Local_Gov/Inquiries/LGC_S5_19_NDR_110_MRoffe.pdf

The submission states:

“The Committee may wish to ask the Scottish Qualifications Authority what proportion of its Nominees are employed by independent schools in Scotland and what the impact on its operations would be if, in order to reduce costs to pay for higher NDR bills, the employing schools were to withdraw permission for Nominees to work for the SQA.”

It has been agreed that I should write to the SQA to invite to its response to this question, as I am doing now.

It would be very helpful to have a response by Monday 24 June if possible.

With thank, in anticipation, for your assistance,

Yours sincerely

James Dornan MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee