LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM CIARAN DREELAN

I am writing to express my views on the Non Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill and removing the eligibility to claim charitable relief for independent schools.

I explicitly disagree with any action that removes the charitable status for independent schools, the reason for this is as follows.

Independent schools are not a business which operates in the pursuit of profits and return to shareholders. They are part of educating future generations for the long-term benefit of society and the economy. As a former governor of an independent school I totally understand the value of work that is done and also how marginal the sustainability and viability of operation is for independent schools.

Removing charitable status could ultimately cease operation of some schools, this in turn will put additional pressure on state schools to provide services, create job losses for many members of staff, and simply cost the treasury more than it will generate from changing the current rules.

I could put long and detailed explanations to much of this reply but I have consciously kept it brief as the facts are so apparent. The Scottish government is targeting an area which does not and should not be targeted. Independent schools should be encouraged and congratulated; NOT victimised.

I therefore simply request that the findings of this review continues to allow Independent schools to maintain full charitable status.