LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MANASI WHEAL

My husband and I both work as medical professionals for the NHS and have done for many years. A large proportion of our salary goes towards our children’s school fees and a substantial increase in these fees, as would result from this bill, would put us in a position where we could no longer afford to educate both of our children privately. We would have to remove one or both, and find places for them in the state school system, which is already overburdened. In fact our local schools are oversubscribed to the point where several families of my acquaintance have been unable to secure places at the same school for their children. This results in long and complicated school runs which interfere with work schedules. As it is we pay for after school and holiday clubs as this is the only way we can both work. Many state schools do not provide these facilities, and if my children attended one or more state schools I would probably have to give up my job as a GP, as my commute and the hours that I work would be impossible. This would of course be detrimental to my patients and the NHS in general, at a time when many areas are badly in need of GPs.