LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM: CHHAYA PATEL

1. I feel strongly that the school of our choice for my child is being penalised for the failings of this government in adequately funding schools as a whole and is hiding behind a curtain to look as if they are doing something.

2. The important aspects that needs to be looked at are the extremely small supposed gains to the public sector schools compared to the value of the monies which the independent schools generate for the local economy and the diversity of its pupils, teachers etc.

3. Consideration has also to be given to the fact that public schools will be need to cope with the applications for placements in an already stretched system.

4. If equality is required on the Non-Domestic rates the government should consider giving independent schools the same amount of monies that are provided to the public schools on a per pupil basis to allow for choice to parents.

5. As stated, it is very counterproductive to have to contribute even more due to this Bill in such a short time and implementation without due regard to the difficulties parents will face, who work extremely hard to provide for their child to go to an Independent school.

5. I also fail to understand why the difference between other charities and independent schools for the payment of Non-Domestic rates including faith schools which enjoy not having to pay for domestic rates.