LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM SUSAN YOUNGER

I have been involved with Cargilfield School for over 23 years – as a parent and now as a Governor. I am alarmed at the approach that is being proposed re Rates and Schools registered as Charities. If this proposal is approved the increased cost to school will mean we cannot offer around 7 of our Bursaries to young people who would benefit from the excellent offerings of school and also we would have to raise our fees to a level that will impact on a large part of our parent body which we anticipate will mean we will see a drop in the numbers of people able to pay the level of the fees we would have to increase to cover this cost.

This in turn would mean the state sector would see an increase in the numbers of pupils being placed with them.

We are so very keen to promote the good work that the school does by making it accessible to as many children as possible – by way of bursaries and close working with local schools and this increase of £119,000 would mean that we would not be able to offer bursaries to as many as we currently do. We have a priority, as a school, to even increase the level of our bursaries and this would simply end this.

We are not here to make a profit nor to be elitist – we want to share what we do and open up the excellent teaching and facilities to as many as possible and this would simply put a very big hurdle in our way. Surely we should be assisted in this rather than penalised.

As I understand it the money raised by completing this proposal would be far and way exceeded by the cost of the State then having to educate the children we currently teach due to the increased costs to parents being unsustainable for them.

We are a charity – we are not here to make profit – we simply look to provide the best of education and opportunities to all with any surplus being re invested to provide high teaching standards, teacher/pupil ratios, facilities and sport for all – we welcome all local schools to use our facilities and work very closely with them to ensure that we work with the community rather than be “shut away” and unapproachable.

Please let us continue to provide the best of education and opportunities for future young people.