LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM REBECCA ARCHER

Having reviewed the case put forward to remove the tax relief afforded to private schools in Scotland I ask the committee to consider the following. How will this action benefit the public as a whole?

The very fact that private schools exist provides relief to the system by off loading a percentage of pupils to a privately funded system. This system also, in many cases, provides facilities and opportunities for the children who attend schools in the vicinity. It has been said that it will only require 3% of private school pupils too leave and take up places in local schools to tip any projected profits made by the new system and leave they will. Private school education is expensive. A fact universally acknowledged. It will only serve to drive a larger wedge between society as the only families able to afford the fees will be those at the absolute top of the tree so to speak. Many families can only begin to afford the school fees with the help of bursaries and family assistance and this smacks of a society who are so hell bent on creating a fair for all system that they lose sight of the bigger picture. A private education is not just a status symbol it is a golden opportunity that mean children, as they go forth in life, are willing and able to grab whatever comes their way with both hands.

I know that the money needs to be found to create the new schools to house the ever growing school populations but this is not the way to make the quick buck. It is a case of marry in haste repent at leisure as the local school numbers grow stemming from an exodus from the private system in conjunction with the burgeoning numbers entering mainstream education.