I’ve had some time reading the arguments for and against, the local government and communities are well versed to consider the many responses in front of you. Appreciate I could go to great length to describe, with emotion, how I feel about this proposal, and the social political climate we all live in, but I will keep this short.

I am a parent, paying just affordable independent school fees for our two children to get a better education than the state provides.

Specifically, at the time, my talented seven year old daughter was struggling in a very large composite class at our local Primary School, there was no support for learning provision, we took extra-curricular education to try to fill the gap, the teachers were hands up can’t be helped, no resources, I understand this was an issue for many parents, we were very lucky and had an opportunity to school our daughter to St Mary’s in Melrose. The difference in learning and development for my daughter was huge, it total vindicated our decision to remove our children from state education, albeit at great expense.

I have monitored the development of our local Primary School; they continue to receive an influx of children to educate from other areas. Information is available online regarding the school improvement plan, it does not suggest any notable changes to learning.

I learn it costs £6500 to educate the average child in state schools, essentially the average tax payer contribution, the cost per child to non-domestic rates for the average independent school is expected to be c.£500. I understand rates are discounted to charities at 20%, not state schools. State schools receive funds from local authorities. To suggest the rates bill is to put all schools on a same level maybe, in this regard, parochially correct, but very incorrect in the whole context of tax and benefit.

Are independent schools to be granted local authority funding? Will I expect to receive compensation for the tax I pay towards state schools? It makes me disappointed and frustrated, considering the imbalance in tax and performance in education in Scotland.

To be clear I oppose this politically motivated notion, leading to increased cost and hope for a far better outcome for education in Scotland.