LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

We are parents to two children that attend St Mary’s School in Melrose we currently receive a bursary for our youngest daughter and without this we wouldn’t have been able to make this educational choice for our children.

With the bursary in mind, we feel that the proposed Bill, section 10 does not make clear the impact that the rates rise has on, not only the future of our children’s education, but on the tax payer and the local authority. If school fees were to rise which is inevitable, should the Bill be passed, we would have to consider removing our children from the school. As a direct result a financial burden would then fall back onto our local authority and the tax payer.

I believe Scottish Government figures indicate that educating a child in a state-maintained school in Scotland costs on average £6,500.00, with that cost multiplied by 2 for our family and with further families in a similar position it would seem possible that the end result would mean a greater cost to the Scottish taxpayer more than the entire rates increase proposed by the Bill. There is not only the additional financial burden to consider but further pressure on class sizes, school buildings, school catchment areas and teacher numbers and recruitment.