LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM LOUISE BERNI

I am writing to provide evidence of how St. Mary’s School Prep School contributes to the local community and wider area.

At St. Mary’s Prep School, many businesses benefit from using the facilities within the school where the school provide many learning experiences. The local community are invited or attend many school functions through sport and drama. Bang goes the Borders Science festival invites the public to take part in many science workshops. The Farr Out Challenge invites numerous local schools to take part in workshops run by St. Mary’s teaching and support staff.

Being Head of Kindergarten, we demonstrate strong relationships with the local community as follows:

- Weekly visits to Wooplaw Wood
- Visits to and we invite local emergency services etc. Fire, Police, Ambulance.
- A baby and toddler group takes place weekly inviting the public to meet within Kindergarten using our own facilities and resources.
- Support and make use of local facilities; Harestanes, Duns Castle, Beach

Along with the school, we promote charity events to fundraise where we have raised funds for the following charities:

- Borders Pet Rescue
- Donkey Sanctuary
- Children’s Ward at the BGH
- Diabetic Unit and the BGH
- Dows Syndrome Scotland
- Cash for Kids
- Guide dogs for the blind.

I believe these points are a very strong case for the Domestic rates (Scotland) Bill to be overturned.