LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANNE MARIE GORDON

I am writing to provide evidence of how St Mary’s prep school contributes to the local community and wider area of the Scottish borders. The removal of the rates reduction for the above named school will have detrimental consequences.

We are very much part of the community here in St Mary’s and I myself work in the Early Years sector. Having spent 15 years in the Kindergarten I feel we include the wider community, this has been done by a variety of charity events where we have provided fundraising for local charities some of these are The Donkey sanctuary, The guide dogs for the blind, Borders Pet Rescue, The paediatric Diabetes unit and Ward 15 in our local hospital, Borders General as well as going the local old folks home Priorswood where the young children sing to the patients.

We as a team use the local facilities thus helping to provide the upkeep of local areas like Harestanes, Duns and Thirlestane Castles whilst visiting these establishments we as a company spend monies so we feel we are putting back in to the community likewise when we visit the local fruit and veg shop and the local garden centre.

As a private school the parents here do not get the benefit of the 40% of the domestic council tax that goes to the education system likewise we don’t benefit from the winter gritting system or the street lighting that is found in local authority schools.

This school has provided me with 15 years full employment and I feel that the introduction of the above fees may have a detrimental effect on my future employment, I feel that the above information does have a strong case for the non-domestic rates (Scotland) Bill to be overturned.