LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM KEVIN DU PLESSIS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regards to the eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools being removed.

I feel this is not a good idea for several reasons.

- Each child that leaves their current Independent School (IS) as a result of their families no longer being able to afford the fees will be an additional cost to the tax payer.
- Further pressures on existing state school equipment, class sizes and teacher numbers as well as catchment areas will result.
- The loss of just one in thirty pupils from ISs (to either state schools or boarding schools elsewhere) would cost the Scottish taxpayer more than the entire rates increase proposed by the bill.

State schools are fully funded via central and council taxation, both of which are charged universally. The debate concerning the fairness of this doesn't take into account that the parents who pay their children's school fees (be it in part or fully) contribute to the sum of resources available to educate the nation's children.

I feel it unfair that a bigger IS will be better able to absorb the rate increase with a smaller financial impact on the students' families than a smaller IS.

I really hope that my opinion on the matter is taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Du Plessis