LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM RHONA DOUGLAS

I am currently employed at Cargilfield School and have been for the past 16 years.

If charitable relief was to be removed from the NDR the implications could be far reaching.

Independent schools are no longer the elitist system that people seem to think they are, I myself have been fortunate to be at independent school since the age of 9, not because my parents were wealthy but due to the fact they lived in Africa and it allowed them to send me back to the UK to benefit from a British education.

Whilst employed by my school my own children also have been fortunate to benefit from an independent school education. With the removal of the charitable status on NDR schools will need to find the funding to pay this – this may cause them to rethink the granting of bursaries and discounts currently received by parents on lower incomes. Fees would also increase and even parents paying full price rethink about whether or not they are able to afford school fees. Many parents today work hard and make the choice to send their children to private school but it is a commitment and if they then had to reverse this decision on account of charitable relief being removed coupled with the increase in fees – the infrastructure of the state system would not be able to cope with the extra pupils they would have to take on, nor would they be able to resource it.

Independent schools are not elitist, they should and can co-exist alongside state schools.

I also worry that if parents were to remove their children then the numbers in independent schools would drop significantly that jobs would be risk.

As I understand it State schools pay NDR and do not get any relief but being run by local government this is purely a paper chase exercise as no money actually changes hands. Are independent schools being penalised so that they may pay for the State system as well in order to generate funds for local government?