LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM MARIA CHRISTOPHOROU

The Independent schools of Scotland relieve a significant burden from state schools. This saves a huge amount of money for local authorities and allows for better education opportunities for state school pupils, which would be diminished if more children had to be accommodated by state schools. The independent schools sector is funded by parents, many of whom make very significant financial sacrifices in order to be able to afford the school fees. A large proportion of these parents will not be able to afford the fee increases that will result from this proposal and will inevitably have to abandon independent schools. This will only exacerbate the enormous pressure that the Scottish state school system is currently under. The proposal makes no sense for the Scottish taxpayers and it makes no sense for the education system and the pupils.