LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM JONATHAN ROSS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my objection to the irrational and contradictory special treatment of Scottish Independent Schools as outlined in the Barclay review.

Please do not allow personal belief or political ideology to overrule the broader interests of Scotland's future, either from an internal perspective or from our ability to compete on a global stage.

A range of compelling arguments have now been made by SCIS, all of which should be addressed by robust logical argument free from contradiction before any further progress is made on this bill.

One of the reasons I use independent education for my children is that through hard work and business success I am proud to be able to afford to fund their education myself, and in doing so reduce the burden on state finances.

"There is nothing wrong with reforming business taxation. There is nothing objectionable about holding those bodies that educate this nation’s young people to account. There is everything wrong and problematic with using the pretence of doing so to single out 50 bodies from 24,000 others, while failing to address any of the inherent contradictions. The bottom line for Scotland is that every child removed from an independent school if fees rise will be an additional cost and space for local authorities to deal with – the bill makes no mention of any of them."

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Ross