LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM MOHSAN AKHTAR

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to ask you not to remove the eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools. If this recommendation is brought forward it will have a huge impact on these schools. I personally know many of these schools and I have seen how they give so much to our local community from giving bursary support or scholarships to those that don’t have the means to send their children to these schools and also the ability they have to allow the wider community to use their facilities. These are both aspects that could feel the impact due to this additional cost. This impact would also put more pressure on parents with fee increases which would directly have an impact on state schools as children having to leave independent schools to these schools would have increased costs, class sizes would increase and possibly the requirements of more teachers would be needed.

This additional cost for independent schools will have a direct impact on the schools themselves but also the tax payer and in particular state schools who already have pressure with class sizes, catchment areas, school buildings and teacher numbers.

Therefore I recommend not to remove the eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools and I would also like to thank you for taking my views in to consideration.

Kindest Regards

Mohsan Akhtar