I strongly disagree with the proposal to remove charitable status from private, fee-paying schools.

The additional cost which would be incurred by parents of such schools should the charitable status be removed would result in a significant amount of children leaving the private school system. This would result in an incredible amount of additional cost and strain on resources for local authorities in order to educate such children in the state sector. This burden on local authorities has not been acknowledged.

The Independent school sector created £156 million in cost savings in 2015 to the state education sector associated with children who would otherwise attend state schools.

I do not believe that it would be beneficial for the Scottish tax payer to remove the mandatory non-domestic rates relief for independent schools.