LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM PAUL CHAPMAN

Sir - I read with dismay the recommendation of the Barclay Review to remove eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools.

As parents of three daughters in the independent school system my wife and I strive to give our children the best possible start to their lives in a holistic, small-class environment which such schools offer. The cost of going down this route is significant, but one we feel we must pay in order to give them the best start in life. As costs currently stand we are just about managing to fund their education, however any increase would oblige us to remove them from the independent system and place them into our local state school; a situation we know is common amongst many of our fellow parents, thus adding significantly to the state school burden.

I would therefore ask that you carefully consider the perhaps unintended long-term consequences and implications of such a move vs any short term gains.