LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

As a parent of 2 children who has attended St Marys Melrose we had paid the full fees to the school when both the children had started at the school from the age of 2.

Not being from a rich family or one who had a trust set up for us by grandparents the cost of schooling was the majority of our income. However as our son was dyslexic we felt that this would be the best option as he would not distract from others if he was in a state school and additional funding being paid to give him the additional support within the state school as we understood that the schools were being stretched due to the numbers attending the local schools and also the cost of being able to provide additional teaching was causing issues for local schools.

We understood we already paid for state school funding through our taxes etc but felt that we could just manage to pay for the school fees. However, if the school fees were to be any higher this would have not have been an option for our children, therefore placing a child within the state system with major dyslexic issues therefore requiring further monies for the state to find to provide the support he would require.

As we then had a second child we only felt that it was fair to send her to the same school and really stretched ourselves to be able to do this.

Unfortunately in 2014 when the collapse of the offshore oil and gas industry in the UK, the business that we ran collapsed which had a major impact on us professionally and personally.

The school who we had paid our fees regularly on time and in full stepped up to provide a major support for our family as they not only allowed our children to continue to study at the school with an 90% bursary, then assisted us in enabling our son to continue into his senior school on a full bursary.

As a parent who has benefited from a local independent school has support us in a way that I would never have I imagined possible. The ongoing education and personal support that they have shown us has been charitable in everyway.