LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

To whom it may concern

As a grandparent of two youngsters attending private schools it has come to my attention that there is a proposal to remove charitable relief from non domestic rates from mainstream independent schools and feel it imperative to make the following points.

Firstly such a move would necessitate increases in fees as well as reducing the number of any assisted places currently offered by those schools. Such action would inevitably mean that some parents of the children currently in private education would NOT be able to afford these increases and would result in their children having to move back to State schools. It has been shown that if only one in thirty of the pupils currently attending private schools were to return to already financially strapped State education the cost to the government would be more that the sums raised by the proposed measures.

In addition to that, Scottish private schools are currently reaching out across the globe to attract foreign students into, what is seen universally as, centres of excellence in educational terms. Increases in fees, necessitated by the proposed measures, would make them less competitive in that global market place.

Lastly but also importantly it would be iniquitous in the extreme if, as it appears, the proposal is directed solely at the private educational charities' sector and not charities as a whole.

This proposal is clearly NOT a sensible measure and should therefore be totally rejected.