LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I would like the committee to strongly consider the impact of removing the charitable relief on rates payable by Independent Schools. I would confirm that these schools are able to provide assistance for pupils who are unable to cope in mainstream schools.

My own son suffered great stress during his first year of school at a local state school. I would not suggest this is the fault of the school but due to the huge cut backs within education he was not sufficiently disabled to obtain help, but nor was he well enough to cope with daily school life. He suffers from a simple condition of Glue Ear, but we were unable to gain support for him at school and he became hugely mentally distressed during this period.

I was working part time during this period and gave up my job to help him cope and help in school time. We tried everything we could to help him remain at his local school but I could not allow his distress to continue everyday hiding at home everyday before school and crying every morning. This was not a way to start schooling life. He is an able and well behaved child but he needed support, he could not hear in class, and we could not get any support for him.

We were lucky enough to obtain a bursary for him at a local Independent school and as a result he is thriving. He is supported and in turn I am able to return to work as a surveyor and contribute my wage to the tax system and therefore it all comes full circle. I would have never previously considered sending my child to an independent school and myself went though the state system, but without this support I am not sure what we would have done. We need these schools to support individuals like my son, there is a gap in mainstream schooling, children like him cannot be supported. I am confident with help he will get through school and be able to contribute to society. He is less likely to be reliant on the government in the long term and this can only be a good thing.

However if fees are to increase we would not be able to afford this option and we will be back to square one, I would have to give up my job as I feel the only option would be to home school him.

I would urge you to reconsider the option of rating independent schools, we must remember the individuals these schools are helping through tough times.