LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

As a student going into Sixth year this year and in the process of applying to university, I would like to reflect on the experiences granted to me at St Columba’s, ones which were made possible by receiving bursaries over my time at high school career. I have been able to build my confidence in voicing my opinion, learn great life skills, make many friends and achieve great results in last year’s National 5 examinations. I have also been able to show my peers what it is like to lead a less than privileged lifestyle. I have no doubt that I would not have been able to have done any of these things without receiving the great amount of support that I have from the school, and that support is something that myself and other recipients in St Columba’s (and indeed other independent schools in Scotland) will never, ever take for granted. I am writing to you to implore you to keep the domestic rates relief as it is. Otherwise lots of things the school currently does will be abandoned. Things like the Bursary Scheme, the Community classes and all the extra-curricular activities which help make us who we are. It is my wholehearted view that the relief should be kept as it is to ensure that younger students who are keen learners and valuable assets to their schools, who may not have the means to attend, are given this vital and life-changing opportunity. Therefore, I ask you to reconsider your stance on this subject, so other young people can have this opportunity to grow into responsible and intelligent Scottish citizens.