LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I strongly object to Section 10 of the proposed Bill which removes eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools and would ask that the following points be considered:

- I have chosen to educate two children privately but cannot – and, acting fairly, would not expect to - claim relief from my contribution to education in the state sector through Council Tax and Income Tax.
- Again, in the spirit of fairness I contribute regularly to the ESMS funding programme to provide means tested assistance with fees.
- In other words, a perceived unfairness in the eligibility for rates relief should be considered in the wider context.
- I would be very surprised if it could be proved that state school budgets in certain areas (Edinburgh, Glasgow) are NOT set in reliance that a high number of pupils will not be taking up their state school place because they are being educated privately.
- If the proposed change in relief leads to an increase in independent school fees, will sufficient public funding and resource (teachers, facilities) be made available to cover an increase in demand for places in state schools for all ages?
- The removal of relief is likely to lead to an increase in the rates at which independent schools charge out school sports facilities/resources/rehearsal space.
- The removal of relief will create a new inequality between private nurseries attached to independent schools (no relief) and private nurseries which are not connected to an independent school and will benefit from relief.
- How will the fairness policy be applied to VAT where state schools currently receive full exemption as educational bodies and the independent exemption is partial?