LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

1. The article states that "Even though there is a difference of 20% between private and state schools for deduction in relief on rateable value, no money ever moves between schools and their Local Authority". If no money moves between schools and local authorities, what difference does it make?

(see below from the article)

2012 In July 2012, the Sunday Herald “revealed” that independent schools, in keeping with all registered charities, received a mandatory 80% relief from their non-domestic rates obligations. This was unfavourably compared to state-maintained schools which receive a nominal rateable value of 100%, although no money ever moves between schools and their local authorities.

2. The increase in costs to the school would be passed on via an increase in school fees. This would cause some parents to be unable to afford the fees thus placing an additional burden on the taxpayer as the council would be required to find places for these children in the local schools. This would seem counter intuitive. I am not sure if I could afford a significant increase in fees. The costs are already significant alongside uniforms etc.

3. The parents who pay fees are already saving the council thousands of pounds by not sending their children to local schools. Why should they be penalised further? If the private schools didn’t exist, schools in Edinburgh would have a massive problem due to insufficient space in the local schools for all the children in Edinburgh. They rely on private schools to be able to meet the demand.

4. In Edinburgh, significantly more than 4% of children are privately educated. The figure is probably more like 30-40%. The idea that private schools are elitist is ridiculous when they incorporate such a significant proportion of the city’s kids.

5. Small independent schools will struggle to absorb such an increase in their costs and will not be able to pass the full amount on to parents as there are too few pupils to spread the costs. I foresee some of these will need to close. Again this will force more children on to the already struggling local schools.