LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

It is with considerable disbelief that we are noticing the Scottish Government’s proposal to remove the mandatory non-domestic rates relief from independent schools and wholeheartedly disagree with this.

In our view, it is unfair and unjust to single out independent schools alone. Sadly, it appears to have more to do with a principle of not wanting to or be seen to support independent schools than anything else.

Currently, independent schools work incredibly hard to contribute with their charitable work and are a real asset not only in their local community but nationally to all generations.

The financial implications to independent schools as a potential result of this Bill will be significant and will have major implications to us as parents as a fee rise is very likely. Ultimately, this might lead to our children needing to leave the school they love and where they are thriving. This is incredible detrimental for not only our children but to every single child who will have to leave their independent school as a direct result of this proposed Bill. The loss of pupils from the independent sector to either the state sector or boarding pupils elsewhere would cost the Scottish taxpayer more than the entire rates increase proposed by the Bill. This makes absolutely no sense.

Instead of singling out independent schools, embrace what they do so well for pupils, the wider community and how this saves significant money for the already overstretched local authorities.