LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

As someone who makes many sacrifices in order afford to send my child to an independent school the removal of NDR relief, and resulting fee increase to fund this, would likely to mean I am no longer able to afford this. As a result my child would start attending state school. Currently I already contribute to the cost of state schools through taxation yet do not make use of them. If my child started attending state school this would increase class sizes and add additional financial pressures on the state schools yet there would be no increased funding resulting in extra strain on an already under funded and under resourced state education system.

Should Independent schools lose rate relief there would be no incentive to make facilities available to the wider community and a financial burden the schools would not be able to afford. The losers in this situation would be the wider community.

This seems to be driven by some philosophical bias against the independent school sector with the aim of making it untenable. This is complete short-sightedness as were this sector to disappear there would no longer be any economic contribution through rate taxation resulting in a smaller public “purse” while at the same time adding extra burden on the state school system as it would need to accommodate all the pupils currently attending independent schools. The sector also employs many staff who contribute through personal taxation. VAT is also paid (albeit partially exempt) by independent schools which would disappear.

The NDR Bill unfairly targets this sector as it is not applied to all 24,000 registered bodies in scotland including other fee-charging restricted admission education bodies.

I can see this ending no way other than less funding for state schools at the same time as having to accommodate the thousands of pupils who would no longer be attending an independent school.