LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a long-term resident of Edinburgh with two children attending independent schools in the city. The removal of eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools could make the cost prohibitive.

I contribute financially to Edinburgh City via my council tax payments and other ways financially through work. By having my children in an independent school, the public school system does not have the financial burden of their schooling costs. However, if the removal of eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools could force many students into the state school system, thereby increasing educational costs on the state school system while simultaneously impairing the financial well-being of the independent schools.

This to me seems like a losing situation for tax paying voters, a losing situation for the financially strapped state school system and a losing situation for the independent schools. One of the factors that makes Edinburgh such an attractive place for high end business (and foreign consulate) relocation and residency is the vibrant school system, both independent and state. To impair this seems detrimental to the City as the educational system is one of the key factors to attract employers and talented employees to our great capital City.

So I am writing to ask for no removal of eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools.