LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

My wife and I both work extremely hard in middle / lower management jobs and make huge sacrifices, for which we are extremely grateful to be able to make, to choose to send our 2 children to an independent school. In our experience most of the parents that we know are in exactly the same boat. We both realise that we are essentially paying for our children to be educated twice – once in the state system (which we are not using) through the payment of our taxes and once in the independent system through the payment of school fees. This is a massive financial commitment, yes one we have chosen to make but one that is hugely demanding. I have no doubt that should there be a significant change to those school fees through the change to charitable relief then we would immediately have to remove our children and put them into the state system. I also have absolutely no doubt that the majority of parents we know would do exactly the same. This would result in a dramatic and significant increase in the number of children in the state system and all of the increased costs and additional pressures on class sizes, resources, additional transport provision and teachers as is widely documented.

In my opinion the economic case for this proposal is simply not there – this is backed up by the following statistic: “The loss of 1 in 30 pupils from the independent sector – either to the state sector or boarding pupils locating elsewhere – would cost the Scottish taxpayer more than the entire rates increase proposed by the Bill.”