LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I urge the Local Government and Communities Committee (LGCC) to consider the implications for individual students, and their families, of the proposal to remove eligibility to claim charitable relief from non-domestic rates from mainstream independent schools.

I am the mother of a 13 year old boy who is receiving his secondary education at an independent school with bursary assistance. Without that assistance, there is no way we could afford to send him to this school. Bursaries are funded through the school’s surplus and are a key means by which, across the independent sector, schools demonstrate public benefit. Implementation of these proposals would wipe out this surplus. I, and many other parents whose children’s life chances are at stake, urge you to consider the full, human implications of these proposals.

I urge you also to consider carefully the statement in the briefing paper submitted by the Scottish Council of Independent Schools –

“The loss of 1 in 30 pupils from the independent sector….would cost the Scottish taxpayer more than the entire rates increase proposed by the Bill”

I am therefore perplexed as to why these proposals would find favour with the Parliament, since they are detrimental to taxpayers overall, and serve only to endanger the position of those children whose families are of very modest means.