LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I have a number of significant concerns about this proposal as I do not consider it is in the interests of any school children in Scotland, the Scottish education system or the Scottish tax payer.

There appears to be a perception that those who choose to send their children to an independent school and, indeed, those schools themselves, have infinite resources that can meet the ever-increasing financial demands. This is misconception.

Most parents who choose to send their children to independent schools do so at considerable financial sacrifice. Removing charitable relief from independent schools will, inevitably, result in a significant number of children leaving the independent school system and, instead, be required to be educated by the State.

The cost of educating these additional children in the State system will far outstrip any financial benefit of removing the charitable relief from Independent Schools. However, more importantly, this approach will be detrimental to the education of all Scottish school children because it will lead to far bigger class sizes and a further stretching of financial resources available to educate children in the State system.

The reality is that the State should be looking at this issue from a completely different perspective. Rather than taking steps that will lead to fewer children being in the independent school system, it would be in the interests of all Scottish school children, the Scottish education system and the Scottish taxpayer if steps were taken at Government level to encourage as many parents as possible to educate their children in the independent sector. There would be many advantages to this approach but, most importantly, it would relieve the financial burden on the State.

With fewer children to educate, the State will have a greater financial resources to spend on those children in the State system which would give those children smaller class sizes, higher wages for teachers and more educational resources - all of which lead to improvements in education standards and results. This would, in turn, lead to a reduction in the attainment gap which would be in the interests of the tax payer and society as a whole.

Taking steps to reduce the number of children in the independent sector, is prejudicial to all those involved in the education sector but particularly all Scottish school children.
Therefore, with this in mind, I do not consider it is in anyone's interests to remove charitable relief from independent schools in Scotland.