LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

As a tax payer I’m interested to understand further why ESMS would have their charity status taken away and now be taxed.

My understanding is that we have chosen to send our daughter to ESMS at our expense. We are still paying taxes which cover the costs of state schools. There are so many children in Edinburgh with limited state schools places, there would be a serious issue if there was not a choice of state and private schools. ESMS are also dedicated to offering bursaries to non-paying pupils.

Personally, we chose a private school due to the concerns raised by the primary school teachers about the poor grades, behaviour and lack of teachers in our local high school. We were lucky to have the option to go private but do not feel that we should be penalised for this if some state schools are not up to standard. We are a hard working family and keen for our daughter to have a good education which will not only benefit her own future but be a qualified professional within our future work force. ESMS is not an elitist school not only emphasising academic education as well as individual wellbeing and contributing to the community. ESMS regularly support local charities themselves.

To tax private schools and take away their charitable status appears to be an easy option for the government again, penalising those who are academic and worked hard to bring their children up with these same ethics. Too often some of these families who are and could be future employers are more heavily taxed themselves, generally being discouraged and an easy cash cow for the government.