LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I am employed as a secretary in an independent school and am privileged to see children from the start of the admissions process to when they leave us as happy, confident and independent young adults. Children who have got lost in bigger classrooms thrive in our environment where class sizes are small. There is nothing quite like it, when you see a child who could not make eye contact when first arriving at school to one standing on stage six months later singing a solo.

I made the difficult decision to move my own children from a small village school to the independent sector; lack of sport (only one 40-minute session per week), drama and academics being the main reasons. Thankfully, the bursary process allowed my children to attend both preparatory and senior schools where they thrived. My children are now in their 20s and often refer to their school days and how lucky they were to have had such a good and varied education.

Families struggle to send their children to the independent sector – I certainly did but I was very fortunate that both schools offered a bursary provision.

Local schools could not accommodate the number of children in the private system – where would they all go? Why is the Scottish Parliament targeting a system that works and is offered to not just the wealthiest but working class people too? Increasing the rates will mean that only the wealthiest in the society can afford independent school fees, making it elitist. Surely, that is not what Scotland wants.

Independent schools are charities and charities for a reason – they help families and children who need support. Scotland had the best ever education system when I was a child – what happened to it?

We interact with the community through numerous events, raise money for charities and are the biggest employer in the area. If Scottish Government are going to target charities then target all 24,000 registered bodies and not just the independent schools.