LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

23 quality full-time jobs so far: my quest to earn the money for private school fees

I am utterly driven to earn the money to pay school fees so I can give my children the best possible education. That personal aspiration, through the business I founded, has so far created 23 highly skilled jobs here in Edinburgh and will create more. Take away that aspiration and maybe I'd have just settled for a regular job. Make it an even harder aspiration to achieve and the "incredibly difficult" may just become the "impossible".

I believe that the rate relief independent schools receive is more than paid back into the economy through attracting and retaining the best minds in Scotland.

Scottish independent schools are already struggling to match their English counterparts. The concentration of wealth in the south of England leads to better facilities and being able to attract the best teachers. Why would Scotland want to leave its independent schools at an even greater disadvantage? Surely we should be assisting them to make Scotland more attractive to successful and driven people.

I am already having to consider schools south of the border and possibly further afield. When you are planning to spend £600,000 you have to consider all options. Private school, like a career, is a life decision where all possibilities, including moving house (and potentially my business), have to be on the table. Wouldn't it be better if that £600k went into the Scottish economy? Maintaining the status quo on rates for independent schools will undoubtedly increase the chances of that money staying here.