LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION FROM GRAEME MACLEOD

I do not agree with the proposal for Non Domestic Rate Relief to be removed from independent schools.

The presumption that the children educated at Independent schools are all from privileged backgrounds is untrue.

I am not a wealthy individual, any money that I have, I have earned through hard work and commitment.

I have chosen to invest this in my daughter’s future by providing her with a private education.

The state benefits from this as the burden to pay for my daughters’ education is removed for which I receive no reduction in taxation to reflect this.

The hypothesis that Independent schools receive a rate reduction whereas state schools do not is incorrect as no payment is ever made from the school to the local authority. It is merely an accounting paper exercise. Whereas the actual 20% of rates paid by Independent schools is real money to the local authority.

The impact of the proposal will only serve to increase school fee’s which will result in increased burden on the state as more parents like myself that can just about afford the school fees will no longer be able to do so and will have no choice but to place their children in the state system.