

## **Minutes from the meeting on the 12 September 2018:**

### **Non-Domestic Rates Bill Consultation**

#### **Meeting with Scottish Council of Independent Schools 12 September 2018**

##### In attendance

Minister for Public Finances and Digital Economy

Alan Hartley, Chair SCIS Governing Board

John Edward, Director SCIS

██████████, Scottish Government

██████████ Scottish Government

██████████ Scottish Government

##### Discussion

1. The Minister introduced the Scottish Government's position including drawing attention to the consultation on the Non-Domestic rates Bill which is scheduled to close on 17 September 2018.
2. The SCIS acknowledged the Scottish Government's position and highlighted the following issues. They included:
  - the timing of implementation;
  - the risks to other services such as bursary provision or services provided to state schools;
  - the options for schools to raise additional funds;
  - comparisons with nurseries and universities; and
  - the importance of continued charitable status for the sector.
3. The Minister thanked SCIS for their input and offered to meet again once the consultation responses had been analysed and there was greater clarity to be shared on details such as implementation timing.



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Scottish Council of Independent Schools  
61 Dublin Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 6NL

By email [Redacted]

Your ref:  
Our ref: 2018/0033635  
29 October 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 27 September 2018 to the Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy. Your letter has been passed to this Directorate and I have been asked to reply.

Ministers are currently reflecting on the significant number – circa 150 – of responses submitted to the Scottish Government's recent non-domestic rates reform consultation. As you are aware the Minister for Public Finance and Digital Reform has also met a range of stakeholders – the last meeting taking place on 23 October – to hear, at first hand, stakeholders views on the Barclay Review and the Scottish Government's Implementation Plan. The feedback received will help inform the Ministerial decision making process.

It is therefore not possible, at this time, to comment on your request that the Scottish Government should consider delaying the implementation of the Barclay Review recommendation to end charity relief for independent schools.

I am sorry I am unable to give you a more helpful reply.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

