SUBMISSION FROM MARGARET BELL

1. I am emailing to register my support for the High Hedge Bill that was recently introduced to the Scottish Parliament by Mark McDonald MSP.

2. I am a private individual who is unfortunate to have neighbours who, each year, completely refuse to cut more than 11/2 inches off the Leylandii hedge that runs the full length of the back gardens. It now stands at over 9 feet and is 4 -5 feet in width even though their agreement with the previous owner was this row of trees would not ever exceed 6 ft 6 inches. At the height of summer a large portion of my garden is in permanent shade and winter is much worse.

3. I agree with the definition of high hedge and think that the Leylandii species of vegetation should be specified individually in the Bill. These plants grow around a foot per year, are very dense and cause a particular problem for many people. Being evergreens they effectively form a wall, stopping light, sunshine and air circulation.

4. With regard to the approach to resolve disputes, I would like to think that the process would not be a long, drawn out one.

5. With regard to costs, I agree some payment will be necessary but would hope that local councils are not given a free rein to decide the upper limit. I consider the possible cost of around £500 to be quite high and feel this cost would make it difficult for some private individuals to pursue the service.

6. I am very hopeful that this Bill will pass the 3rd stage quickly so Scotland can get up to speed with possibly resolving ‘hedge’ matters in a similar way to the rest of the UK.