Clerk to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee  
Committee Office  
Room T3.60  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Sirs

High Hedges/Vegetation Bill

Further to recent correspondence regarding the issue with high hedges and vegetation we respond as follows.

We are in total agreement that something has to be done about this matter, and the hope of this dispute being addressed will be great news for many.

For many years we have lived next door to a family who have a 60-70 ft high Copper Beech tree on the boundary between their house and ours. The tree is a canopy over our back garden and in the summer months our garden is void of sunlight after 1pm, and in the autumn the leaves are a menace clogging gutters and drains which we are continually clearing away from garden and pathways. The tree is also a danger because should it ever be blown down by wind etc it would probably flatten most of our house it is so close. We live in fear every time there is a gale that large branches will break off and damage our property or ourselves. They also have several other smaller trees on the boundary and are getting bigger every year and starting to cause problems of their own.

We have asked our neighbours many times over the years about the dangers of the tree, only to be ignored. We have taken the matter up with our Local Council, sought legal advice, even offering to share the costs of removal, all to no avail, finally approaching our local MSP who has given us and many others hope that matters may be resolved by the passing of the Bill on High Hedges and Vegetation.

I am enclosing a number of photographs showing our plight.

Yours faithfully

Mr & Mrs Alexander Rutherford