Local Government and Communities Committee

Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013

Submission from Ruth Hughson

In relation to your request that any individuals affected by the High Hedges law could respond with their experience then that is what I am doing.

Myself and several other houses in the same small area are affected by trees which are approximately 50 foot high which are in the gardens of the properties adjacent to the houses. The owners of these houses have been extremely difficult in coming to a mutual decision as regards the height of the trees and every meeting arranged to discuss this issue along with officials present has been fruitless.

My understanding of the High Hedges law applicable in Scotland as well as England is that any trees or hedges over 2 metres high and causing sun and light being blocked from their properties have reason to insist that the trees be kept at that height.

Myself and the other owners who are affected have hit rock bottom in trying to negotiate anyway whatsoever in reducing the height of the trees. The trees in question do not make any difference to the owners as they are all situated more than 200 metres from their houses.

I will address some of the problems we are encountering as briefly as possible.

Blocking the sun from the house and garden thereby having rooms in darkness during the day. Plants dying because of lack of light and sun and thereby causing dampness and pools of water in the garden unable to dry. Branches falling off the trees and causing damage to sheds and garages and failure to recoup the cost.

These problems will give you some idea how our lives are being affected and trust you will be able to do what up to now has not been successful and understand that we only wish a sensible solution to this long term problem and how it affects the enjoyment of our house and garden.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Hughson