Local Government and Communities Committee

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

Submission from Stirling Council

Stirling Council Planning Services response to the following questions:

- **Has the definition of a high hedge as set out in the Act proved helpful? If not, please provide details.**
  - The definition of a High hedge is too general:
  - The minimum number of trees or shrubs to form a hedge should be at least 3 rather 2;
  - Restrict hedges to physical or legal boundaries between pieces of land;
  - A minimum distance between plants should be stated, hedges traditionally closely planted. Plants should be spaced less than 1m apart;
  - Lack of guidance on assessing deciduous hedge with regard to loss of light, variety of deciduous plants and seasonal variations in light levels;

- **Any other issues relating to the Act which you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee?**

Properties with a High Hedge notice have been sold during the compliance period. The new owners being unaware of the High Hedge Notice, as it does not need to be currently registered with Sasines. Should this be reviewed so potential/new house buyers are aware at the time of purchasing a house.

Some wide hedges cannot be reduced to comply with High Hedge Notices without access to the applicant’s garden. When neighbours are not communicating and/or allowing their neighbours onto their land, this makes compliance difficult to resolve.

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