Local Government and Communities Committee

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

Submission from Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Dear Bob,

I’m writing to pass on concerns from one of my constituents who has experienced problems with a neighbour’s high hedge. I understand that the deadline for consultation has closed, but as I only received her correspondence yesterday I hope it can still be fed into the Committee’s work.

In the past my constituent’s husband was able to maintain it on their side, but due to severe disability is now in full time care, and so is unable to tend it. There are 35 trees ranging between 10 and 12ft, over a length of 84ft, which is simply unmanageable. She had applied to City of Edinburgh Council for a High Hedge Notice but unfortunately it was refused.

She told me that she feels it unreasonable that such a feat has been left to her family to deal with, as her husband is unable to tend to it in the way he used to.

It would very much be appreciated if the difficulties those with disabilities or those with caring responsibilities face when a notice is refused.

Best,

Alex Cole-Hamilton
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Western Constituency