



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters

September 2020

ETF update on office closure

We are pleased to say that Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) continues to operate during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The Albion Trust has been liaising with the Scottish Government regarding the re-opening of Norton Park and are keeping us up to date. At present, the Scottish Government do not intend to make a statement regarding the re-opening of non-essential offices before 10th September 2020.

Whilst the office base is closed staff continue to work from home and can still be contacted in the usual ways – by email to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or by phoning 0131 475 2509 and they will do their best to assist you.

On behalf of everyone at ETF, stay safe and take care.

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 23rd September 2020, 6.45pm for 7.00pm start, online

ETF will be holding a Federation Meeting on **Wednesday 23rd September 2020, 6.45pm for 7.00pm start, online**. The topic of the Federation meeting is “ETF, COVID-19 and beyond...” At this online meeting you will have the chance to:

- Find out more about ETF’s activities during lockdown;
- Hear about the good work of ETF member groups;
- Discuss ETF, member group and tenant priorities for the future.

If you would like to book a place at this event please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or call 0131 475 2509. You will then be sent an email invitation with the link to join. To access Zoom, create an account via <https://zoom.us/> and download the app onto your device. To find out more about how to use Zoom, please get in touch with ETF’s Admin Assistant Adam Hussain by calling 07399 584 282 or email admin@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This important event will take place on **Friday 27th November 2020, time to be confirmed, online**.

By now all ETF’s member groups should have received an invitation to submit proposals to amend the constitution and propose resolutions regarding the work of the Federation. If your group has not received this information please contact the Federation office.

Proposals to amend the constitution and resolutions must be received in the Federation Office by **Friday 25th September 2020**.

The next mailing will be posted out, to member groups and groups that ETF are aware of who may wish to become members of the Federation, on Tuesday 29th September 2020. This mailing will include:

- Agenda for the meeting;
- Draft minutes of the AGM held in 2019;
- Proposals to amend the constitution;
- Proposed resolutions regarding the work of the Federation;

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Norton Park 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

 **0131 475 2509**  info@edinburghtenants.org.uk  www.edinburghtenants.org.uk

Edinburgh Tenants Federation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC048236, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

- Membership application form;
- Form to nominate a member of your group to become a member of the Federation's Executive Committee (EC).

If you or your group wish to become a member of ETF but have not received this mailing by Monday 5th October please get in touch and the relevant paperwork will be posted out to you. If anyone in your group is interested in becoming an EC member and would like a chat about what is involved in being an EC member please contact us.

Applications to become a member of ETF and nominations to become an EC member must be received in the Federation office by **Friday 13th November 2020**.

As we are having to do things differently this year and hold the meeting online, we are still busy planning how to make this a fun and successful event involving as many member groups and tenants as possible. If you would like to discuss how you / your group can attend the event please contact us on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

ETF Blog

For this month's blog, Niel Hansen, Secretary of Moredun Multis and Maisonettes Residents Association (MMMRA) has written about the high profile campaign he has been involved in with the group in Moredun. You can view Niel's blog at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/category/guest-bloggers/>. If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

Total Mobile

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) are happy to announce that housing repairs will soon be confirming repairs appointments by text. CEC call handlers will ask for a telephone number and this will be used to provide confirmation of your appointment, reminders, and a real-time alert to let you know when the operatives are on their way to your property. Landlines will also be able to receive these messages and there will be no cost to CEC tenants. CEC will also be launching an exciting new service called Remote Assist. This will allow CEC to visually connect with tenants through an encrypted video call. Allowing CEC to diagnose the repair more accurately and to send the right person with the right equipment to fix the problem. Remote Assist will go live in September and CEC's call handlers will offer tenants the opportunity to trial this service when a video call could be of help. Watch this space for further details.

ETF responds to Scottish Housing Regulator COVID-19 Consultation

The Scottish Housing Regulator recently consulted on temporary changes to its Regulatory Framework to enable it to continue to respond during the COVID-19 epidemic. ETF submitted a response to the consultation, which can be downloaded at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etf-response-to-scottish-housing-regulator-consultation-on-covid-19/>. Alternatively please contact ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry on 07918 742468 or email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk to request a copy.

Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2020 Nominations

Do you know an individual or a team within your organisation whose contribution deserves to be recognised? Organisations are able to nominate up to three individual volunteers and make up to three nominations for the Ian McInnes Award. You can find out more or nominate someone at <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/nominations-open-2/>. For more information, please contact Jason McCann, Volunteer Edinburgh by phoning 0131 561 8308 or emailing events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk.

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Want to campaign for more social housing?

Housing charity Shelter Scotland is looking for people with personal experience of long waits for social housing or transfers to more suitable social housing to help them campaign for a new building programme.

The charity hopes to be able to give a platform to people to speak out about the impact of having no choice but to live in expensive or inadequate accommodation.

This would include people who are currently living in privately rented accommodation, over-crowded accommodation, living with parents, living in housing that doesn't meet a physical disability or sensory impairment or living in temporary accommodation having made a homelessness application.

While first-hand stories tend to be the most powerful the charity would also like to make contact with community representatives who can speak out on behalf of local groups. Please share this appeal with anyone you know who you think might be interested in taking part. To find out more get in touch with [Susie \(underscore\) Rose@shelter.org.uk](mailto:Susie_rose@shelter.org.uk) or phone 0344 515 2442.

Diary Dates

Here are some important dates that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.

September 2020

21 st September	Edinburgh Public Holiday, staff not working
23 rd September	Federation Meeting, 6.45pm for 7.00pm, online
25 th September	Deadline for submitting constitutional changes / motions for ETF's AGM

November 2020

13 th November	Deadline for submitting ETF membership applications and EC nominations for ETF's AGM
27 th November	ETF's AGM, time to be confirmed, online

Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information. Don't forget that *Federation Matters* and other Federation publications can be downloaded from our website at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk. That's all for this month - do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.


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