

Update from ETF

If you've been following the work of ETF, then you'll know that the Federation Office has been closed since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Although restrictions are easing and the Norton Park Centre has since re-opened, the Federation's Executive Committee (EC) has taken the decision to keep the office closed at present to ensure the continuing safety of both staff and service users. However ETF is still operating on a daily basis during this time and staff can be contacted via email at info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. We will provide an update when we have more information. In the meantime, stay safe and take care.

ETF's Annual General Meeting (AGM), Friday 29th October 2021, Zoom, 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start

Preparations for ETF's AGM are now well underway and we look forward to seeing you at the event. The meeting will take place on **Friday 29th October 2021** using **Zoom, with a 6.45pm registration for a 7.00pm start**. At the AGM you will hear about the work carried out by ETF over the last year and listen to our inspirational guest speaker, Josh Quigley, who recently broke the Guinness World Record for cycling a distance of 2179.66 miles in seven days. There will also be a fun event after the AGM. To book a place please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509 by **Friday 22nd October 2021** and you will be sent an email invitation with the link to join. You can also take part in the meeting by phone, just get in touch to book a place and you will be given a number to phone in order to join at no cost to yourself. To find out more about how to use Zoom, please get in touch with ETF's Development Worker, Mark Henry by calling 07918 742468 or email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Everyone should have received their papers for the AGM, which also contained information about how to apply to become a member of the Federation and to become an Executive Committee (EC) member. Applications to become a member of ETF and nominations to become an EC member must be received in the Federation office by **Friday 15th October 2021**. If anyone in your group is interested in becoming an EC member and would like a chat about what is involved, please contact us by emailing info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509 and we can explain what the role involves.

Federation Meeting

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our Federation Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 2021. The topic was *'All about the money: Tenant rents, services and investments!'* which discussed the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) Rent Consultation.

Lisa Mallon, Enabling & Partnership Operations Manager, gave an overview of the consultation on proposed increases to CEC tenants' rents. There was also a question and answer session where tenants asked questions about CEC's plans. Attendees were then involved in discussions on the questions in CEC's Rent Consultation.

These discussions will help formulate ETF's response to CEC's Rent Consultation. Attendees were also able to hear about the work ETF has carried out over the last couple of months as we discussed our Progress Report.



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

CEC Rent Consultation

As mentioned in the previous article, CEC is currently carrying out their Rent Consultation which runs until **Wednesday 8th December 2021**. This year's rent consultation gives CEC tenants a chance to provide feedback on the housing service, rent levels and future plans for the housing service in Edinburgh.

This is an ideal opportunity for tenants to help shape the future of housing in Edinburgh and ETF would encourage as many CEC tenants as possible to have their say. This can be done in a number of ways:

- Online at https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/2022-23-rent-consultation/consult_view/;
- Email housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk;
- Complete the paper copy of the survey contained in the Tenants' Courier which tenants will be receiving shortly.

CEC Short-Term Let Control Area Consultation

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government introduced laws which allow Councils in Scotland to designate all or part of their area as a Short-Term Let Control Area. In Edinburgh, Airbnb is regarded as one of the largest platforms for short-term letting. If a short-term let control area is approved by the Council and by the Scottish Government, a property owner who is letting out a residential property (which is not their principal home) on a short-term let basis would have to apply for 'change of use' approval through the planning application process.

CEC is currently carrying out a consultation to inform the decision on taking forward a Short-Term Let Control Area for formal designation until **Friday 5th November 2021**. ETF will be submitting a response to this consultation and if anyone would like to be involved in helping to draft this, please get in touch with ETF's Development Worker, Mark Henry by emailing mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or calling 07918 742468. You can respond individually to the consultation:

- Online at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/short-term-let-consultation/>;
- By emailing stlcontrolarea@edinburgh.gov.uk.

CEC Accessible Housing Survey

Edinburgh residents of all ages and living in all types of housing are invited to take part in a survey about accessible housing. The survey is part of a project CEC is carrying out to understand more about the need for accessible and adaptable homes now and in the future. The survey will also help CEC to understand more about the number of households in Edinburgh which may need housing which is designed or adapted to meet health and disability needs and support independent living.

The survey results will give CEC additional information about current accessible homes across the city and the number that will be needed in the future which will help to inform future housing plans.

You can respond to the consultation:

- Online at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/accessible-housing/>;
- By emailing housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk.

The closing date for responses to the consultation is **Friday 15th October 2021**.

Changeworks – Warm Home Discount

It's coming up to that time of year where the weather becomes a lot colder and more unpredictable. Many people struggle with the rising costs of fuel, which creates a sense of anxiety and uncertainty. The Warm Home Discount Scheme is a UK Government scheme regulated by Ofgem, where participating suppliers offer a £140 rebate on your electricity bill, or £140 credit to your prepayment meter. To be eligible, you should either be in receipt of the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit, or on a low income. If you qualify, the money will be paid into your electricity account by 31st March each year that you apply.

The Warm Home Discount is not widely advertised, so you may not have heard of it. Many householders who are eligible for this discount have no idea it exists and Changeworks are trying to spread the word about it. You can find out more the Warm Home Discount and whether you're eligible to apply for it at <https://www.changeworks.org.uk/resources/warm-home-discount> or phone 0800 870 8800.

ETF's response to the review of Scottish Social Housing Charter

ETF recently submitted a response to the Scottish Government's review of the Scottish Social Housing Charter and we would like to thank everyone who helped contribute to this. A final copy of ETF's response can be viewed at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etf-response-to-review-of-scottish-social-housing-charter-september-2021/>. Alternatively, if you would like to request a paper copy of the response, please contact ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry by calling 07918 742468 or email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Tenants Voice

Everyone should have received copies of the August edition of *Tenants Voice*. It's a full edition, with plenty of interesting stories and information. We hope you enjoy reading *Tenants Voice*. If anyone would like to request extra copies, please contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. A copy of *Tenants Voice* is available to read at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/tenants-voice-august-2021/>.

Diary Dates

October 2021

4 th -10 th October	Poverty Alliance's Challenge Poverty Week
5 th -7 th October	Tenants Information Service National Housing Conference
15 th October	Deadline for applications to become a member of ETF and nominations to become an EC member
15 th October	Deadline for responses to CEC's Accessible Housing Survey
22 nd October	Deadline to book for ETF's AGM
29 th October	ETF's AGM, Zoom, 7.00pm

November 2021

5 th November	Deadline for responses to CEC's Short-Term Let Control Area Consultation
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December 2021

8 th December	Deadline for responses to CEC's Rent Consultation
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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. Do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.