



# EDINBURGH TENANTS FEDERATION

## ***Annual Report 2022-2023***

### ***Inside this issue...***

***All About ETF • Message from the Executive Committee • Communications and Social Media  
Round Table Meetings • Scrutiny Update • Volunteer Fair • Working with Our Local Member Groups  
Out and About at Community Events • IUT membership • Scottish HR Bill Consultation  
Damp and Mould • APPG Council Housing Inquiry Consultation  
Tenant and Landlord Rented Sector Reforms Consultation • Finance***

## All About ETF

Here at Edinburgh Tenants Federation's (ETF), the umbrella organisation of tenants and tenants' and residents' groups throughout Edinburgh, our overall aim is to represent tenants across the city, ensuring tenant influence in housing policy and service decisions with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and Scottish Government. Our main objective is to improve housing conditions and standards, along with the quality of life of all city residents.



EDINBURGH TENANTS  
FEDERATION

We work hard to do this by providing:

- Independent advice, information and learning opportunities for tenants.
- Information, advice and support to tenants' and residents' organisations to assist them develop and achieve their aims and objectives.
- Networking opportunities bringing local organisations together to work on issues of collective interest.
- Events to assist people to participate individually and through their groups in decision making about their homes, community, and environment.

## Message from the Executive Committee

Once again, the Executive Committee (EC) is delighted to share our Annual Report with you, and hope it gives you a flavour of the work we do, and maybe encourages you to become a member or get involved in some of our activities.



*The Executive Committee*

We are delighted that we are now getting out and about, meeting tenants, staff, Elected Members, and others face to face to learn more about housing services and our local communities. Our Round Table Meetings with Elected Members has helped us to build relationships with existing and new Councillors from all parties, making sure they know and understand tenants' views, issues, and concerns as well as what we think is working well in the services tenants receive and the standard of our homes. Our new scrutiny subgroups on Repairs & Maintenance and Sheltered Housing, ensure tenants can find out more about these services, what is working well and what could be improved. Our work in other subgroups such as stair cleaning, high flats, housing retrofit plans, among others, helps us work with the Council to try to improve housing conditions and standards.

We are really pleased to see that local tenants' and residents' groups are thriving once again and are working hard to improve their local communities, and delighted to see that some new groups are being set up.

Through our meetings with MSP's, the Scottish Government, and other organisations interested and involved in housing issues and services, we are making sure the voices of tenants living in Edinburgh are being heard, including people living in temporary accommodation, whilst waiting for a home of their own.

We would like to thank the City of Edinburgh Council for its continued support and funding and our staff and TIS for supporting the Federation to achieve its aims and objectives.

*ETF Executive Committee*



## Communications and Social Media

ETF has been working on improving its social media presence during 2023, including taking part in several social media campaigns to support relevant issues and raise awareness of the organisation. This includes Volunteers Week, Small Charity Week and Challenge Poverty Week. In addition ETF has created useful and interesting content for social media, such as promoting events and sharing partner's work and information. There has been a steady increase in followers, reach and engagement in ETF's social media this year. ETF has ambitious plans for developing its communications and use of social media in 2024, as part of a wider rebrand and update of the organisation's digital communications.

## Round Table Meetings

ETF hosted two Round Table events in January and August 2023. Councillors from all parties were invited to attend and engage with tenants on topics chosen by the tenants, which they had identified as priorities. Both events were well attended and successful and as a result will hopefully be replicated in 2024. The January session focussed on New Builds, Communication between the Council and tenants, Allocation of Council Housing, Void Management & Timescales, Value for Money, Housing Investment Needs and Targets, Repairs and Maintenance. The August Round Table covered Council Performance Targets, Housing Service Strategies, Housing Legislation, Sheltered Housing, Housing Improvements, Voids and Allocations and Rent Setting and Affordability. If you would like any further information on past or future Round Table events please contact Shona Agnew, ETF Development Officer, by phone on 07399584283 or email at [shona@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:shona@edinburghtenants.org.uk)



## Partnership Working

At ETF we are delighted to work in partnership with a fantastic array of organisations to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Edinburgh and beyond.



## Scrutiny Update

Following on from the Tenant Participation and Scrutiny Framework review in partnership with the Council and Tenants Information Service, two new scrutiny subgroups have been set up. One has a focus on repairs and maintenance and the other focuses on Sheltered Housing. Supported by ETF and TIS staff these meetings provide ETF members and individual tenants the opportunity to meet with CEC officers, to find out more about these services, give their views, advise of issues and concerns, and suggest how things could possibly be improved.

And during 2024 / 25, ETF plans to recruit more tenants to get involved in a **new scrutiny group**. Tenants will be invited to come along to find out more about scrutiny, how they can get involved, the types of activities tenants could undertake to carry out in depth, independent reviews of agreed housing service, policy, and procedure areas. Look out for more information on scrutiny opportunities in Spring / Summer 2024.



## Volunteer Fair

ETF hosted a stall at the very successful Edinburgh Volunteer Fair on Wednesday 13th September 2023. ETF used this excellent opportunity to speak to members of the public and partner organisations about the work of the Federation and to raise understanding of tenant participation and tenant scrutiny. It was also useful for ETF to find out more about some of the great work that other organisations are doing, and how they utilise volunteers in this work. ETF hopes to attend the volunteer fair again next year.

## Out and About at Community Events

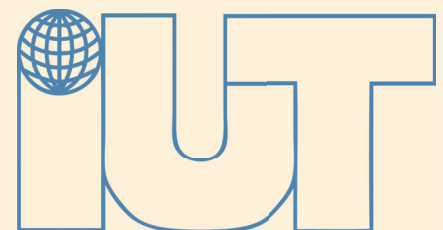
ETF has participated in several community events this year, including Goodtrees Carnival and Broomhouse Street Party in the summer. These were great occasions to meet tenants and residents in different areas of Edinburgh, promote the organisation and explain how people can get involved or get support from ETF. Both events also offered excellent opportunities to connect with other partner organisations who were also stallholders.



ETF also attended community meetings with Low Income Families Together (LIFT) and Shelter Scotland to look at improving housing conditions, and another with End Poverty Edinburgh focused on how partners can work together with the community to campaign against and challenge poverty in Edinburgh.

## International Union of Tenants Membership

In June 2023 the International Union of Tenants (IUT) accepted ETF's membership application, which allows ETF to access a great range of events and resources from the IUT and member organisations across the world. It will be fantastic to learn more about how tenants' rights and tenant participation and scrutiny are carried out within a worldwide perspective. We look forward to finding out more about the quality and availability of social housing, provision of housing services as well as the wider housing issues and concerns that can impact any country. We hope to share and learn from good practice and look forward to keeping you up to date on developments going forward.



We would like to thank the IUT for accepting ETF as a member, and look forward to working with them in the future.

## Working with Our Local Member Groups

ETF is really pleased to see many of our local Tenants' and Residents' Associations are working hard to improve their homes and communities after Covid-19 put a stop to a lot of their activities. Our current member groups are:

- Birnies Court Tenants and Residents Association
- Gateside Tenants and Residents Association
- Hailesland Park Residents Association
- Laichfield Community Association
- Minorities Initiatives Tenants and Residents Association
- Moredun Multis and Maisonettes Residents Association
- North Sighthill Residents Association
- Redbraes Tenants and Residents Association
- Wharton Square Residents Group
- Willowbrae / Duddingston Residents Association



The Federation staff and Executive Committee have provided information, advice and support to many groups including Hailesland Park Residents Association, Laichfield Community Association, Calders Sheltered Housing Group, Moredun Multis and Maisonettes and Willowbrae and Duddingston to meet their aims and objectives, organise meetings, activities and trips for members and hold successful Annual General Meetings. With lots of new members joining these groups, it is wonderful to see them starting to flourish once again.

With some new groups in the pipeline, ETF looks forward to increasing the number of groups across Edinburgh and providing support to those already members.

If you would like to find out more about tenants' and residents' groups that are local to you or get advice and support with setting up a new group please contact Shona Agnew (Development Officer) by phone at 07399584282 or by email at [shona@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:shona@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

## Scottish Government Human Rights Bill Consultation

ETF members and tenants met in October 2023 to discuss and seek views on the Scottish Government's Human Rights Bill consultation. Following the session, ETF submitted a response to the Scottish Government focussing on:

- Dignity in housing, what this means and how the Scottish Government would describe dignity.
- Standards of living and housing conditions.
- Having a minimum core obligation that landlords should meet in terms of human rights.



**The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that housing is the basis of stability and security for an individual or family. The centre of our social, emotional, and sometimes economic lives, a home should be a sanctuary—a place to live in peace, security, and dignity.**



## Damp and Mould



At the Federation meeting in April 2023, Sharon Donohoe of TIS presented on the topic of Damp and Mould in housing. This has been a much-highlighted issue in recent years following the tragic death of Iwab Ishaak in Rochdale in 2020, where an independent enquiry concluded that the toddler's death was a direct result of damp and mould in his home and the failure of the Borough Council to address it. The enquiry also led local authorities and wider social landlords in Scotland to review their damp and mould policies.

The Federation meeting outlined different types of damp and mould and their causes and provided tenants with the opportunity to discuss their experiences and share views. Following this, the City of Edinburgh Council created a new Damp Team and has been recruiting specialist staff to work within it to improve the Council's responses and effectiveness when dealing with damp and mould reports from tenants. Further partnership work will be developed between ETF, TIS and the Council in the coming months.

## All-Party Parliamentary Group Council Housing Inquiry Consultation

ETF worked with a group of tenants in early October 2023 to provide detailed feedback to a UK wide All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) which was conducting a Council Housing Inquiry. This was a successful event and the information gained from the group was passed back to the APPG, as well as later being distributed to MSPs for Edinburgh. ETF highlighted the need for the continued and increased support for Council Housing, increased investment requirements and availability of Council homes, both in Edinburgh and across the country. ETF hopes to be included in any further correspondence related to this Inquiry, so that we can inform tenants, officers, Councillors, MSP's, and MP's and to ensure tenants' voices are heard and acted upon.



## Tenant and Landlord Rented Sector Reforms Consultation

In October 2023 ETF held a session for tenants to discuss, seek views and respond to the Tenant and Landlord Rented Sector Reforms Consultation. The consultation focus was mainly on the private rented sector (PRS) with a smaller focus on the social rented sector (SRS) of council and housing association housing and services. The SRS questions and discussions focussed on the rights of tenants to have pets, how protections around evictions can be improved and what unclaimed tenancy deposit money should be spent on.

## Thank You

ETF would like to thank our staff team, TIS, Council Officers and Elected Members, and of course our fabulous ETF members for all their hard work, support, and inputs over the last year and we look forward to working with you all and recruiting new members over the coming year.



## Income and Expenditure for the year to 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
City of Edinburgh Council service agreement	241,083	241,083
	<u>241,083</u>	<u>241,083</u>
<b>Less: Expenditure</b>		
Staff Costs	79,674	77,223
Tenants Information Service Fees	55,000	48,000
Support Costs	56,409	51,349
Governance	3,223	4,944
	<u>194,306</u>	<u>181,516</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	46,777	59,567
Actuarial gain on pension scheme	188	36,703
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>46,965</u>	<u>96,270</u>

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	<u>10,120</u>	2,506
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	3,187	577
Cash at bank and in hand	253,558	227,029
	<u>256,745</u>	<u>227,606</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<u>(39,942)</u>	<u>(40,187)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>216,803</u>	187,419
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due greater than one year</b>	<u>(1,408)</u>	<u>(11,375)</u>
<b>Net liabilities</b>	<u>225,515</u>	<u>178,550</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Edinburgh Tenants Federation funds - unrestricted general	236,559	199,265
Edinburgh Tenants Federation funds - pension	(11,553)	(21,224)
Edinburgh Tenants Federation funds - restricted	509	509
<b>Net funds</b>	<u>225,515</u>	<u>178,550</u>



## EDINBURGH TENANTS FEDERATION

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

Tel: 0131 475 2509

Email: [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk)

Web: [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk)

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