

Local Government and Communities Committee

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

Submission from Kenneth Gray

We have been in a continuing dispute over 10 years or so with an elderly neighbour whose large, ragged, forest-type, conifer trees block considerable amounts of light from our modest suburban garden. We too are over state-pension age.

We would like your committee to consider the following –

- The definition of a high hedge is too restrictive when the problem lies with closely-planted trees which spread sideways as well as upwards at a horribly quick rate. Too much sympathy and leeway seems to be given to the offending party who is generally basking in the sunshine denied to the complainer.
- Our local council requires an up-front fee of £495 before proceeding with a HHN application. This is a considerable amount of money to spend with no guarantee of success. It must deter many put-upon people from proceeding, and begs the question of what is the point of legislation which makes it so difficult and pedantic to fulfil its purpose.
- It would be excellent if your committee could come up with a better, less-legalistic way of compelling people to respect their neighbours' situation and point of view.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth Gray