

Local Government and Communities Committee**Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013****Submission from Vreni Fry**

Thank you for inviting the public to contribute to the debate regarding the effectiveness of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013. When reading the contributions to date comments seem to come from members of the public who have been affected by the hedge.

I am writing because we have been framed as the perpetrators, having 2 spruce trees in our back garden. They are about 30 m away from our neighbours' property and they are two individual trees, being 10 m apart. And yet, our neighbours would like us to reduce their height. (which is not possible to this type of tree so they would have to come down).

I think it would be useful if all emotive language such as 'reasonable enjoyment' would be taken out of the act. Here are my suggestions:

- 1) For vegetation to be a High Hedge it must first be planted as a hedge.
- 2) Hedge height should be defined in relation to dwelling.
- 3) Applications should only be allowed to neighbouring properties.
- 4) The document 'Hedge height & light loss 2004 (or equivalent) would be part of the application to establish impact on property and garden and a table for acceptable hedge height drawn up. There should be two separate tables, one for 'leylandii' (more restrictive height chart) and one of 'any other' (less restrictive height chart)

I consider the fees entirely reasonable. It does encourage people to think twice before submitting an application.

Vreni Fry