



ASSC



UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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Edinburgh Woman Promises Fight Back Against Unfair Property Decision

An Edinburgh woman has vowed to continue her fight against an Enforcement Notice issued to her by City of Edinburgh Council following a single complaint from a neighbour about her short-term rental property.

Nicola Golden, whose family has a lengthy connection with the Capital, has operated her short-term rental property in the city since 2017, and has only ever received one complaint, maintains that the action taken against her by the local authority is based on untrue accusations.

The list of baseless accusations includes that the property is only used for the purposes of short-term letting and that planning laws have been breached by its operation – neither of which are true.

Ms Golden has received support from the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers, the Scottish trade body that represents the traditional short-term letting sector, for her campaign and has joined with her to help her fund her case.

While the initial rounds of funding were successful, Ms Golden now has to raise an additional £112,000 to pay to have her appeal heard by the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Both Ms Golden and the ASSC are aware of the significant task ahead of them and the powerful, well-funded opposition they will face but the previous success they have had with fundraising, including raising over £17,000 in four days, can be repeated.

There is genuine concern that if the Court does not find for Ms Golden then a precedent may be set that threatens self-catering in Scotland which accounts for £723million of economic activity annually.

Commenting, Nicola Golden said:

"I've lived, studied, and worked in Edinburgh for many years – it's the City, and the community, that I call home."

"If I was running a party flat, if I was disrespectful to my community, if my guests disrupted the local life, or if I was running a 24/7 365 day a year hotel with no attention to health and safety or noise disturbance then maybe my property would need to be reviewed – but the evidence clearly shows that I am not."

"I am part of a booming industry that brings culture, diversity, wealth, and life into the City of Edinburgh and I take great pride in my ability to both stay connected to the City I love and that I get to share it with my family and my guests."

"It would be a terrible shame if that were taken away from me."

Also commenting, ASSC Chief Executive, Fiona Campbell said:

“While we are disappointed that it has come to this, the ASSC stands firmly behind Nicola in her fight against what appears to be an inconsiderate and poorly-made bureaucratic decision.

“Self-catering properties like Nicola’s are a vital part of Scotland’s world-leading tourism offering and this case threatens their continued contribution to our valuable sector.

“All of us in the traditional short-term rental sector want to see a fair deal for everyone involved – picking on a part-time proprietor in this disproportionate and baseless way is not the way to do it.

“We hope that justice and common sense prevail in this matter and the ASSC stands ready to help to the full extent of our abilities.”

ENDS

Editor’s Notes

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