

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSC Respond to new City of Edinburgh Council Report on Short-Term Letting**

The Association of Scotland’s Self-Caterers (ASSC) have expressed concern at the recommendations contained in a new report from City of Edinburgh Council which will be presented to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee next week.

The report proposes significant and wide-ranging regulation of the short-term lettings sector in Edinburgh, including the introduction of a licensing system. Councillors on the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee will discuss the report on Tuesday 7th August.

In response, ASSC Chief Executive Fiona Campbell said:

*“Following on from the balanced nature of the Scottish Government’s response to the recommendations of the Scottish Expert Advisory Panel on the Collaborative Economy, we are profoundly concerned at the position taken in this report from City of Edinburgh Council. The analysis ignores key evidence on the short-term lettings market in Edinburgh and the proposed regulatory solutions are completely disproportionate to the problems raised.”*

*“The ASSC believe that there is no evidence for the introduction of a draconian and restrictive licensing system – which would, in any case, require the support of the Scottish Government to proceed.”*

*“Our members are dedicated professionals and adhere to a Code of Conduct which clearly and unambiguously sets out rules and safeguards. What is proposed in the Council’s report amounts to a serious threat to the livelihoods of operators in Edinburgh and the Capital’s thriving tourist economy of which short-term lets form a crucial part.”*

According to research undertaken by Frontline Consultants, as part of the ASSC commissioned Far More Than Just Houses report, the traditional short-term rental sector generated £723million of economic activity in Scotland – with much of it concentrated in the Capital. Furthermore, self-catering trips accounted for 36% of all tourist visits to Edinburgh and the Lothians in 2016/17, meaning that city’s tourism sector relies heavily on the sector to provide visitors with accommodation during their stay, including during the Festival period.

Fiona Campbell added:

*“The ASSC remains committed to the responsible growth of the short-term letting market which is of great importance to Scotland’s tourist economy. Any regulations proposed must be based on evidence and not rely on perception and anecdote.”*

*“While we express disappointment at what has been recommended by the Council, we will continue to engage in a constructive and meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders as policymakers at a national and local level continue their discussions on short-term lettings. The ASSC looks forward to engaging with the Short-Term Lets Delivery Group as it takes forward its work assessing the challenges and opportunities of short-term lets to Edinburgh and the rest of Scotland.”*

ENDS

**Notes to Editors**

[1] [Far More Than Just Houses report](https://www.assc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/MoreThanJustHouses.pdf)

[2] [ASSC Code of Conduct](https://www.assc.co.uk/about-us/code-of-conduct/)

[3] [Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Short-Term Lettings report](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/58043/item_72_-_short_term_letting_in_edinburgh)

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