



# EDINBURGH TENANTS FEDERATION

## *Annual Report 2023-2024*

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## Message from the Executive Committee

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to highlight the remarkable achievements and progress the Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) has made. Our commitment to advocating for tenants' rights, fostering community engagement, and driving positive change has been steadfast, and we are thrilled to share some of our key accomplishments.



### Community Engagement and Advocacy

Over the past year, ETF has actively participated in consultations with the City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government, and the Scottish Parliament, both online and in person. Additionally, we have attended several community events to raise awareness of ETF and engage directly with tenants.

### Initiatives and Projects

We successfully launched a Public Information Comic called "Tam's Story," which has been well-received by tenants and stakeholders. This comic serves as an engaging and informative resource, helping tenants understand how they can work within their communities to create positive changes.

### Strengthening Community Networks

ETF has been instrumental in setting up new Tenants and Residents Associations in Edinburgh and providing ongoing support to existing ones. This effort has strengthened community networks and empowered tenants to actively improve local services.

### Digital and Social Media Presence

Recognizing the importance of digital engagement, ETF has developed a robust social media presence and actively participated in social media campaigns. Our online platforms have become valuable tools for communication, information sharing, and advocacy.



AGM 2024

### Events and Recognition

We hosted ETF's first Challenge Poverty Week event, bringing together community members, policymakers, and advocates to address issues of poverty and housing inequality. Additionally, we launched the ETF Awards for the first time, celebrating the outstanding contributions of tenants, volunteers, and housing staff.

### Looking Ahead

As we move forward, ETF remains committed to our mission of empowering tenants and advocating for their rights. We will continue to build on our successes, address emerging challenges, and strive for a fairer, more inclusive housing system for all. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, staff, partners, and, most importantly, the tenants who inspire and drive our work.

*ETF Executive Committee*



## Staff and Volunteers

There have been several changes within ETF over the last 12 months.

Sue Taylor joined the Executive Committee in November 2023 and has been working hard in many of the subgroups and chairing her local group.

The Federation welcomed a new Development Officer, Rosanna Campbell, in April 2024, and she has been working to support some of the tenants and residents' groups in addition to taking over the High Flats Group and the Repairs Scrutiny Group hosted by the council.

Mary Callaghan retired from her post as Office Manager from ETF, after almost 20 years of service, in August 2024. Staff and volunteers wish Mary well in her retirement.

The Tenants Information Service (TIS) continue to support ETF and its team to develop tenant participation across the city.

Terry Kirby stepped down from the Executive Committee at the AGM in November 2024. We want to thank Terry for his service and support for ETF and wish him all the best in the future. ETF also welcomed a Learning in Communities student from the University of Edinburgh to placement and was on placement between January – June 2024. ETF wish you good luck in your future endeavours.

ETF also want to offer condolences for the loss of George McKie, former ETF Convenor and Jimmy Galloway, who was a valued tenant member, and Neil McCallum who was a former ETF staff member.



## TIS Awards 2023 and 2024

ETF staff and volunteers, including members of the Executive Committee, were also able to attend the TIS Annual Conference and Awards in November 2023. ETF had two tenants who were nominated for awards and were finalists. Betty Stone, ETF Convenor, was a finalist for the Outstanding Contribution to Tenant Participation Frances Nelson MBE (Individual Tenant) and Robyn Kane was a finalist, and winner, for the Young Achiever of the Year Award.



Betty Stone TIS Award Finalist



Robyn Kane TIS Award Winner



Sharon TIS Conference Attendee

ETF staff and volunteers will attend the TIS Awards again in November 2024, where two tenant members have been selected as finalists. Betty Stone and Harry Woodward are both finalists for the Lifetime Achievement Award (Individual Tenant).

## Communications and Social Media

ETF has been working hard to improve its social media engagement and is pleased to report that in the last 12 months, there has been just under a 10% increase in followers on Facebook and around a 5% increase in followers on X (formerly known as Twitter). There has also been an excellent rate of engagement with posts, for example, people have been sharing, liking, and commenting on posts about ETF events which helps get the word out to new people who might not have previously come to ETF events. If you are on social media please keep liking, commenting, and sharing ETF posts as this helps to continue to improve the social media presence.




ETF has also been involved in some social media campaigns over the last 12 months, and some of these have been quite different to any content that was posted before.

These campaigns include:

- Trustees Week 2023 and 2024
- Volunteer Week 2024
- Small Charity Week 2024
- International Day of Charity 2024
- Challenge Poverty Week 2024

If you use Facebook or X (formerly Twitter) and do not already follow ETF, please do as this is a fantastic way of getting all our up-to-date news, events and updates.

✕ @EdinburghTenant     EdinburghTenant

## Public Information Comic Project

ETF started a Public Information Comic project in 2023 to create an accessible resource that any tenants and residents in Edinburgh could access and would show how tenants and residents can make an impact in their local communities. Something the tenants involved in this project wanted to do was address the stigma around social tenants and promote ETF. ETF staff asked tenants to provide feedback on several questions about living in social housing, for example, what the good and bad elements of this were.

The tenants worked with ETF staff to create the comic and came up with characters, a setting and a story about a tenant called Tam who wanted to make his area better for his grandchildren, and who would contact ETF to get help to set up a resident's group. The group then looked at local comic artists and commissioned the work from Tanya Roberts, who turned the story into a comic.

The comic will be launched through an event and will be then made available for free to anyone in Edinburgh who wants a copy. If well received, then ETF could potentially create comics on other issues around housing and community in the future.





## Rebranding

ETF has recently started work on a Rebranding project in partnership with TIS, to make improvements to the service, particularly around communications and the use of digital tools and resources for tenants that might make use of.

The Executive Committee will be meeting with ETF and TIS staff to work through the rebranding process so please look out for updates on the rebrand in the coming months.



## Local and National Consultations

ETF have held a range of consultation sessions, both in person and online, to provide members and tenants with the opportunity to feedback on local and national policies. Following the sessions, ETF submitted an organisational response to the following consultations:

- Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2023 – 2028
- Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS)
- Climate-Ready Edinburgh Plan
- Local Heat Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)
- Housing (Scotland) Bill
- Tenant Participation Strategy (TPS)
- Local Housing Strategy (LHS)
- City Plan 2040
- Scottish Housing Regulator

Please get in touch if you would like further information on how ETF responded to the consultations listed above.

## 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.





## Moredun Multis & Maisonettes Residents Association

We in Moredun have been very busy meeting with the CEC on our green space and local area! We have held a couple of small consultations in the area with members of our steering group and a community artist.

Alongside this we have had our first full year of growing in our allotments. Our secretary has been leading with organising these growing spaces and we love to see what's been growing!

We are looking forward to the next few months as our Greenfield project at Moredunvale will be under way and we will be doing a lot of things through the winter months and into the new year.

## Oxgangs North Community Association

As a group we just started this year. We have had a great time setting our residents association up with Shona who has been a massive help. We are so looking forward to the new upcoming year and to see what opportunities we have for Oxgangs (North).

## Willowbrae and Duddingston Residents Association

This year at Willowbrae, we had a digital drop-in for 8 weeks which was great, run by People Know How and organized by Rosanna from ETF. Although the weather held us back from Barbecues we still had chat days.

This year we have held five meetings with the housing officer and Councillor Aston, which have been particularly good. We are celebrating the time we have been a group member of ETF and registered tenants' group with the City of Edinburgh Council. I cannot say enough about the help tenants receive from ETF; without them, we would not have had the things done that we wanted.

## Birnies Court Tenants & Residents Group

We have been busy in Birnies Court, there are three groups of mixed people using the community flat. Local people have a different group on a Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday a craft group, a geography group, and a sewing group. It has been quite quiet at the moment, but there have still been a few issues with repairs which I managed to sort out. I am also dealing with the retrofit going forward in both Oxcars and Inchmickery which will hopefully start in the Spring. I have my regular meeting with the block manager and walkabouts to check the high-rise buildings in the area.



## ETF Awards

For 2024 ETF has restarted annual awards to thank and recognise the hard work of tenants, residents, groups, partners and housing staff across four categories:

- Individual Tenant or Resident
- Tenant and Residents Group
- Housing Staff Member
- Community Project

An independent judging panel examined the submissions and chose winners in each category and these will be announced at the AGM on Friday 15th November, 2024 at the Leonardo Murrayfield Hotel.



EDINBURGH TENANTS  
FEDERATION

## Income and Expenditure for the year to 31 March 2024

### Income

Charitable activities			Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
City of Edinburgh Council SLA	120,542		120,542	241,083
	120,542		<b>120,542</b>	<b>241,083</b>

### Expenditure

			Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable expenditure	132,563		132,563	134,674
Support Costs	72,884		72,004	56,409
Governance costs	4,067		4,067	3,223
	209,514		<b>209,514</b>	<b>194,306</b>

## Balance Sheet

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		6,751		10,120
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	3,187		3,187	
Cash at bank and in hand	152,480		253,558	
	<b>155,667</b>		<b>256,745</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Creditors due within one year	(25,875)		(39,942)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>129,792</b>		<b>216,803</b>
<b>Creditors: greater than one year</b>				<b>(1,408)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>136,543</b>		<b>225,515</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
Restricted funds 11	509		509	
Unrestricted funds 12				
General funds	137,772		236,559	
Pension reserve	(1,738)		(11,553)	
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>136,543</b>		<b>225,515</b>



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