

Neighbour guide 5

Sharing your experiences of living next to an empty home



If you find yourself in the following situations, this guide is for you:-

- Attempts to trace the owner have been unsuccessful
- Communication sent to the owner has gone unanswered
- The problems the empty property is causing do not meet the threshold for any disrepair notices
- There are limited resources in your council area to follow up with empty homes without an Empty Homes Officer (EHO)

Sometimes with an empty home there is no quick fix. The limits of legislation and resources don't allow councils to intervene in all cases where empty homes are causing problems for neighbours, and for the wider community.

This is frustrating as you see the property getting worse over time and worry about the safety and security of your own property. Taking action to highlight the impact an empty property is having on you and the rest of your community can help push for change in the longer term. By contacting elected representatives, you can make sure your voice is heard.

You can find your elected representatives at Write to them:-

<https://www.writetothem.com/>

Our colleagues at Shelter's Scotland's Community Organising Team have prepared helpful resources on [organising a campaign](#) . These include how to:-



[Write an influential letter](#)



[Meeting a politician](#)

We can also provide a template letter for you to adapt.

If you live next door you will be directly affected, however, if a property has been empty for some time and stands out in the community, you can also encourage other neighbours to write to their elected representatives. This will show the strength of feeling and scale of the impact.

Neighbours can also report their concerns using our report an empty property form:-

<https://emptyhomespartnership.scot/neighbour/>

Sharing your empty homes experiences

Highlighting examples of how neighbours and their communities have been affected by empty homes is a reminder that an empty home isn't just one of a number, but something that neighbours have to live with.

We understand that not everyone will feel comfortable talking publicly about their own personal situation. However, there are many ways in which your experience could be shared:-

- As a case study on our website or featuring in one of our reports or press releases. This depends on the level of detail you feel comfortable sharing, however your story could be anonymised.
- On our social media platforms.
- You may even want to feature in one of our [blogs](#) or in a video clip talking about your experience.

When you contact our advisers, your details will be held in the strictest confidence. Details will only be shared with your express permission.

Contact our advisers today to discuss ways in which you could

share your story of living next to an empty home:-

 0344 515 1941

 emptyhomes@shelter.org.uk

<https://emptyhomespartnership.scot/>