

Nomination Form

Lifetime Achievement: Tenant



TIS National Excellence Awards 2024

The **TIS National Excellence awards** recognise and celebrate housing organisations, staff, volunteers, tenants, residents, and community groups **who are leading the way and making positive change in the Scottish social housing sector.**

Categories honour excellence in everything **from partnership working, tenant participation and scrutiny practice, to digital creativity and innovation.** Hotly anticipated, the awards offer a seal of approval for the most outstanding work.

Finalists are selected by an expert and independent judging panel, and **winners announced at an awards ceremony on Thursday 7th November 2024 at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow.**

The closing date for applications is 5:00pm on Thursday 11th July 2024. TIS accepts submissions in more than one award category.

Category Overview

The **Lifetime Achievement** award recognises an extraordinary, individual tenant who has demonstrated **an exceptional commitment to effecting positive change** across the Scottish social housing sector, during their lifetime.

Submissions must evidence how the individual has made significant contributions, both in the organisation in which they have worked, and across the sector as a whole. **A real ambassador for building strong and resilient communities,** they have championed tenant participation, had a profound impact on the lives of many, empowered other tenants, residents, and communities to influence housing policies, services, and standards, explored innovative new ways to get people involved, strengthened relationships and communication, **and inspired those that they have worked with.**

Who you can nominate

This award is open to an individual tenant.

About you

Please note information about the individual, organisation, or group submitting the application:

Name	Sue Taylor
Position	Executive Committee Member
Organisation	Edinburgh Tenants Federation
Email address	Suetaylor9@hotmail.com
Telephone number	07821 304132

About the nominee

Please note information about the individual you are nominating:

Name	Betty Stone
Position	Convenor of ETF Executive Committee
Organisation	Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF)
Email address	Betty_473@hotmail.com
Telephone number	07974149716



Background

Maximum 250 words

Please outline background information about the individual that you are nominating.

For example, detail:

- The background of the individual.
- The specific role they undertake.

Betty Stone (Stevenson) has been campaigning on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) tenants since the 1980's, firstly with her local group and as a member of the citywide 'Edinburgh Flats Fight Back', which ensured new windows for high rises in the 1980s, and then, in the 1990's, as a key member of the Muirhouse High Rise Action Group and new member of Edinburgh Tenants' Federation (ETF). It didn't take long for Betty to be elected to the ETF committee, rising to Vice-Convenor in the early noughties and then to Convenor in 2005, continuing to this day. As the Convenor, Betty plays a vital role in the structure and strategic objective of ETF.

Passionate and committed, Betty has campaigned tirelessly on behalf of tenants for more than 40 years. She's forthright and clear about what she believes needs to be done to support tenants and their families, informed by ETF's research. She also understands the challenges that the Council faces to improve housing: this does not stop Betty from holding the Council to account, but it does mean that she works in a way that helps to build and maintain positive working relationships.

Betty is committed to supporting tenants across the city and gives up a lot of her personal time to ensure tenants' rights are adhered to in Edinburgh. She is also the Chair of Birnies Court Tenants and Residents Group, where she works on a local level to support her community and resolve any issues they may be facing.

Actions

Maximum 500 words

Please outline specific actions of the individual that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to effecting positive change across the Scottish social housing sector, during their lifetime.

For example, outline:

- How the individual has had a profound impact on the lives of many.
- How the individual has become an ambassador for building strong and resilient communities.
- How the individual has gone above and beyond to champion tenant participation practices, and empowered other tenants, residents, and communities to influence housing policies, services, and standards.
- How the individual has inspired those that they have worked with.
- The work involved and their overall aim.

- Betty is the Convenor of ETF where she is a prominent figure in the strategic objective and the culture of the charity.
- Betty supports Tenants and Residents Associations across the city when they require it, for example through chairing meetings or following up on individual housing problems.
- Betty sits on a number of tenant working groups with the council including a Repairs Scrutiny Group, the Repairs Direct Contact Centre subgroup and Stair Cleaning Board.
- Betty also chairs the ETF High Flats group where she supports high flats tenants across the city to find their voice and raise issues important to them.
- Betty maintains a good rapport with local councillors and council officers who listen to her point of view and work to resolve issues that she raises. The councillors also come to Betty for advice on dealing with housing issues for their constituents.
- Betty continues to take deputations to the Council, particularly focusing on the high rent levels. In February 2023, her arguments directly helped to encourage a Council decision to establish a tenant hardship fund to support tenants struggling to pay their rent. Yet another example of her focus of ensuring that tenants are at the heart of decisions about their homes and communities.
- Betty promotes involving tenants. In December 2017, at a conference on the future of housing in Scotland, and as the only tenant presenting at the event for housing providers, builders, planners, academics and the Housing Minister, Betty was to the point: *"So if you are not already involving people in decision making about place, I want to ask you why not? Go and do it. A re-think of how we design with and for communities, is possible."*
- Betty attends networking events for ETF, such as community festivals and conferences, where she shares the work of ETF and connects with other organisations in the sector to encourage partnership working.
- Betty also supports individual tenant cases where she can; to resolve housing issues people may be facing.

Outcomes

Maximum 700 words

Please outline positive outcomes the individual has achieved as a result of their commitment to effecting positive change across the Scottish social housing sector, during their lifetime.

For example, detail the impact on:

- The delivery of housing services.
- The improvement of satisfaction levels.
- Adding value to their local area and improving community spirit.
- The culture of the organisation and its core values.
- Communication, strengthening relationships, and partnership working.
- The inclusion and lasting benefits of tenants, residents, and communities.
- The skills and knowledge of other tenants, residents, and communities.
- How others can learn from the individual's good practice now and in the future.

- Successfully supported tenants across the city with individual problems that were unresolved, such as repairs, anti-social behaviour, rent issues etc.
- She has supported tenants' and residents' groups across the city to continue running by attending meetings and offering advice.
- Betty was influential in adding a waiting time/queue number to the Repairs Direct phone line so tenants know where they are in the queue and can decide if they can wait that long or not.
- Through her encouragement, the council arranged for tablets to be provided to tenants' groups not already online to support ongoing tenant engagement during COVID.
- Betty actively communicated with local councillors on getting a rent freeze for the tenants of Edinburgh.
- After witnessing the aftermath of a tenant's suicide, Betty encouraged ETF to work with [Health in Mind](#) and the Council to establish the Mental Awareness Group (in 2009). This led to more than 200 housing officers being provided with [Safe Talk](#) training. Betty also persuaded the Council (and ETF) to sign up to the [See Me](#) pledge. ETF were recognised for this work in 2010, winning a Guardian Public Services Award and the TIS Frances Nelson Award for Best Federation.
- In 2021, as a board member with the [One City Trust](#), Betty helped to set up ring-fenced funding for groups in the city that include CEC tenants.
- In June 2022, Betty gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee on low income/ debt problems. Along with representatives from other lobbying organisations, she helped to develop a better understanding of the impact of poverty on citizens.
- ETF were involved in the [Housing Rights in Practice project](#), using a human rights-based approach to improve housing in Leith. As a result, residents were better able to influence decisions on improvements. This pioneering work led to ETF winning the TPAS Tenant Participation Champion of the Year (Organisation) award in 2017, which Betty proudly collected on behalf of ETF. That same year she also braved the 'Big Sleep Out' to help to raise money to tackle homelessness.
- Betty has strengthened partnerships with other organisations in the sector through attending and speaking at events and meetings relevant to housing.
- Betty has been successful in the continuation of funding from the council for ETF.

- Betty supported the rent structure changed for council tenants in Edinburgh, which reduced the number of rent categories.

What makes this nominee stand out from the rest?

Maximum 100 words

Please provide a short testimonial on why this individual deserves to win.

Betty is a dedicated and hard working activist who commits a lot of her time to supporting tenants across Edinburgh. She is highly skilled at communicating with a range of people in a down to earth and empathetic way. She deserves to be acknowledged for her lifelong commitment to tenants' rights and improving social housing across Edinburgh. In 2014, Betty won the Council's Inspiring Volunteer of the Year Award for her work representing tenants. This [short video](#) evidences examples of her work and highlights the respect her peers have for her contribution. Betty has devoted much of her adult life to campaigning; a Lifetime Achievement award would be a fitting way to recognise her significant contribution to representing the interests of council tenants in Edinburgh.

Declaration

As the proposer I have completed this nomination form to the best of my knowledge, and the information provided is a true representation of the nominee's achievements.

Name	
Signature	
Date	

Thank you for taking the time to complete this nomination form.

Please submit your nomination by **5:00pm on Thursday 11th July 2024** to TIS by email at: info@tis.org.uk or by post to: **TIS – Clockwise Offices, 77 Renfrew Street, Glasgow, G2 3BZ.**

Next steps

- **All applications will be acknowledged on receipt by TIS.** If you do not receive acknowledgement within 3 working days, please contact us to ensure your application has been received.
- An **independent judging panel** will rate your application against the award criteria. The panel will consist of representatives from organisations across the Scottish social rented sector.
- Your award submission will provide the basis for both the shortlist and final decision of the winning entry.
- **TIS welcomes applications in more than one award category.**
- Please ensure you answer all questions as fully as possible and keep the content of your nomination focused – avoid exceeding the suggested word count.
- **TIS will inform all proposers of the outcome of their application Thursday 29th August 2024.**

- Finalists will be invited to the **TIS National Excellence Awards Ceremony**, as part of the TIS National Housing Conference and Exhibition, on **Thursday 7th November 2024** at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow.