

New Airbnb powers welcomed

Now Edinburgh residents urged to have their say.

Edinburgh Pentlands MSP, Gordon Macdonald, has given his backing to an announcement from the First Minister that councils will be handed powers to regulate and control short term holiday lets.

The move follows concerns that the number of short term accommodation lets in Edinburgh, offered by platforms such as Airbnb, is restricting the volume of available residential properties available in our capital.



Gordon Macdonald MSP PHOTO Martin P McAdam

Gordon Macdonald MSP is encouraging local residents to have their say on the Scottish Government's plans as part of an online consultation that runs until 19 July 2019.

The proposal is part of a package of new housing initiatives announced at the SNP's spring conference in Edinburgh this weekend – including a new £150 million scheme to help young

people get on the property market with loans of up to £25,000 available to assist with a deposit for a new home.

Gordon Macdonald said: “While short term letting sites, such as Airbnb, have helped contribute to Scotland’s booming tourism industry, they are making it harder for people in tourism hotspots like Edinburgh to find permanent homes to live in.

“The SNP Government is looking to proactively tackle this issue by handing councils the power to control the number of lets and ensure they make a contribution to the local services they use.

Consultation:

<https://consult.gov.scot/housing-services-policy-unit/short-term-lets/consultation/subpage.2016-07-07.1474135251/>)