# STUC leader Roz Foyer faces backlash over Isle of Jura holiday home amid second home tax campaign



Scotland's housing crisis has recently come under intense scrutiny, particularly amid revelations regarding Roz Foyer, the General Secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC). Despite her vocal denunciation of second home ownership as a chief contributor to the ongoing housing shortages, her personal circumstances have sparked outrage over perceived hypocrisy.

Foyer, reportedly earning nearly £100,000 a year, has built a public platform on disapproving of second homes, claiming they exacerbate the housing crisis and the soaring cost of living for many Scots. Following the STUC’s policy pronouncement in July 2023 advocating for a staggering 300 per cent council tax premium on second and empty homes, Foyer insisted on the necessity for a more equitable sharing of wealth in Scotland. She argues that the rise in second homes undermines critical attempts to address chronic homelessness and reduces access to affordable housing, particularly for public sector workers vital to civil society.

However, the revelation that Foyer and her husband own a holiday cottage on the Isle of Jura has cast doubt on her public moral stance. Acquired in 2012 for £45,000, the cottage’s current valuation of approximately £150,000 starkly contrasts Foyer’s vehement opposition to second home ownership. Critics, including Scottish Conservative finance spokesperson Craig Hoy, have not held back, labeling her actions as emblematic of a glaring hypocrisy. “Hypocrisy is the religion of champagne socialism. We eagerly await Roz Foyer’s condemnation of Roz Foyer,” Hoy remarked, highlighting the disconnect between her personal choices and her vocal advocacy.

Foyer's dual residence—which includes a family home in Glasgow along with the cottage—has raised alarms regarding the impact of second homes on local communities. The STUC General Secretary has consistently warned that such properties can severely harm neighborhoods by inflating prices and complicating recruitment efforts for public sector roles. Labour MSP Carol Mochan recently brought this issue to light in the Scottish Parliament, stating that the shortage of affordable housing is crippling the recruitment and retention of essential workers, thus tangibly illustrating the detrimental effects of burgeoning second home ownership.

The discourse surrounding housing in Scotland has reached fever pitch. Foyer's comments echo an increasingly vocal recognition among MSPs of the detrimental impacts second homes have on local economies and housing markets. There is a growing consensus on the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul in taxation of second properties to alleviate the mounting pressures on communities, particularly in rural areas where housing shortages are most dire.

In light of the mounting criticisms, a spokesperson for the STUC defended Foyer, claiming she has been transparent about her dual position. They asserted that she fully supports increased taxation on second homes and acknowledges the complexities of her situation, even amid her personal ownership. This defense may reiterate her commitment to social justice and equitable distribution of resources, yet it underscores a troubling incongruity within the broader housing debate in Scotland.

Foyer finds herself in a precarious position, simultaneously aiming to champion the working class while navigating the implications of her own personal choices. This controversy not only emphasizes the urgent issues surrounding second home ownership but also raises crucial questions about the genuineness of advocacy in the public sphere. As Scotland grapples with its housing crisis, the scrutiny surrounding figures like Foyer will be integral in shaping future policy and public opinion.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746193/Hypocrisy-champagne-socialist-Scots-union-baron-holiday-home-idyllic-Jura-despite-condemning-negative-effects-second-homes.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746193/Hypocrisy-champagne-socialist-Scots-union-baron-holiday-home-idyllic-Jura-despite-condemning-negative-effects-second-homes.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - An article from the Daily Mail reports that Roz Foyer, the General Secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), owns a holiday cottage on the Isle of Jura, despite publicly condemning the negative effects of second homes on Scotland's housing crisis. The piece highlights accusations of hypocrisy against Foyer, who has advocated for increased taxation on second homes to address homelessness and housing shortages in Scotland. The article also details Foyer's professional background and her public statements on housing issues.
3. <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/Isle-Of-Jura.html> - Rightmove provides a selection of properties for sale on the Isle of Jura, including a four-bedroom detached house listed at £495,000. The property is described as enjoying a fine prominent and elevated site overlooking the small Isles to Pladda, Eilean Nan Coinein, and beyond to the Isle of Gigha and Kintyre. The listing includes photographs and details about the property's features and location.
4. <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/isle-of-jura.html> - Rightmove offers historical house price data for the Isle of Jura, indicating an overall average of £151,500 over the last year. The data shows a 36% decrease compared to the previous year and a 57% decrease from the 2021 peak of £350,000. The page provides detailed information on individual property sales, including dates and sale prices, offering insights into the local property market trends.
5. <https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/seaview-cottage-isle-of-jura1.html> - Booking.com features Seaview Cottage on the Isle of Jura, a traditional one-bedroom house situated in the heart of Craighouse, the main village on the island. The cottage overlooks Small Isles Bay and includes amenities such as an open fire, a garden area, and proximity to local shops and the sea. The listing provides details on availability, pricing, and contact information for bookings.
6. <https://juradevelopment.co.uk/accomm-listing/> - The Jura Development Trust's accommodation listings page provides information on various self-catering properties, bed and breakfasts, and other lodging options on the Isle of Jura. Listings include details such as location, contact information, and website links for properties like Mrs. Leonard's Cottage, Holly House, and Dunchraobhan Self-Catering, catering to different preferences and group sizes.
7. <https://juradevelopment.co.uk/about-jura/where-to-stay/> - The Jura Development Trust's 'Where to Stay' page offers information on accommodation options on the Isle of Jura, including hotels, bed and breakfasts, self-catering properties, camping, and caravan sites. Notable establishments mentioned are the Jura Hotel, Ardlussa House, and Corran House, providing contact details and descriptions of their offerings to assist visitors in planning their stay.