# Roz Foyer’s second home ownership sparks claims of hypocrisy in housing crisis campaign



The controversy enveloping Roz Foyer, General Secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), has reached a boiling point with revelations about her second home on the Isle of Jura, valued at around £150,000. Foyer, who resides in Glasgow, has railed against the adverse effects that second homes and short-term lets exert on local communities. However, her own ownership sharply contradicts her public crusade against the housing crisis, public sector funding issues, and escalating cost-of-living challenges that plague so many in Scotland.

While she vigorously advocates for steep taxes on second homes and empty properties—calling for councils to impose a council tax premium of up to 300%—the reality of her own property ownership raises questions about genuine commitment to her stated principles. This hypocrisy is too much for many, as voiced by Craig Hoy, the finance and local government spokesman for the Scottish Conservatives. He aptly dubbed her a hypocrite, stating in the *Daily Mail*, “Hypocrisy is the religion of champagne socialism. We look forward to Roz Foyer’s condemnation of Roz Foyer.” Such criticism highlights the broader dilemma regarding the ethical implications of ownership amid spiraling socio-economic challenges that countless ordinary people face daily.

In a bid to mitigate the fallout, a spokesperson for the STUC asserted that Foyer remains devoted to her call for increased taxation on second homes. However, these reassurances do little to quiet the skepticism surrounding her dual life—living a comfortable existence while advocating for punitive measures against property owners. The spokesperson claimed, “The General Secretary has been transparent and clear on our position of increased taxation for those with assets.” This, they suggest, amplifies her accountability, yet fails to address the fundamental disconnect between her advocacy and her own choices.

The mounting backlash against Foyer's conflicting position is emblematic of a larger movement rippling through the UK, where councils are increasingly empowered to impose hefty council tax premiums on second homes. From April 2025, councils in England will be able to enforce a premium of up to 100% on these properties, seemingly emboldened by the likes of Foyer's rhetoric. Local councils from Cornwall to Stoke-on-Trent are actively taking steps to combat the housing crisis, yet here stands a prominent figure failing to apply her own ideals.

As Scotland continues to grapple with the intensity of its housing challenges, the rift between Foyer's role as a public advocate and her personal investments only serves to ignite a discourse on the responsibilities of those in influential positions. The juxtaposition—or lack thereof—between personal conduct and public policy intensifies the narrative surrounding Scotland's ongoing struggles, raising critical questions about accountability and sincerity in leadership.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25189954.stuc-general-secretary-accused-hypocrisy-second-home/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23649058.call-charge-second-home-owners-300-council-tax-premium/> - The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) has called for Scottish councils to implement a council tax premium of up to 300% on second and empty homes, aligning with measures in Wales. This proposal aims to generate additional resources for local authorities and address housing shortages. STUC General Secretary Roz Foyer highlighted the negative impacts of second homes and short-term lets on communities and the local economy, emphasizing the need for increased taxation on such assets to alleviate the housing crisis.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/second-homes-and-empty-properties> - In England, from 1 April 2025, councils can charge a council tax premium on second homes, which are furnished properties not used as a main residence. The premium can be up to 100% of the standard council tax rate. Exceptions include properties that are annexes forming part of the main dwelling, job-related accommodation, and those with planning restrictions preventing permanent occupation. Councils have discretion over the application and level of the premium, aiming to encourage the use of empty properties and support local communities.
4. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-tax/second-homes/> - Cornwall Council has agreed to charge an additional 100% council tax premium on second homes from 1 April 2025. Second homes are defined as furnished properties not used as a main residence. The council has outlined proposed exceptions to the premium, including annexes used as part of the main dwelling, job-related accommodation, properties being actively marketed for sale or let, and seasonal homes with planning conditions preventing year-round occupation. These measures aim to bring more properties into use and address housing shortages in the area.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/long-term-empty-homes-and-second-homes-council-tax-premiums-and-exceptions/guidance-on-the-implementation-of-the-council-tax-premiums-on-long-term-empty-homes-and-second-homes> - The UK government has provided guidance on implementing council tax premiums for long-term empty homes and second homes. Councils can charge a premium of up to 100% for properties empty between 1 and 5 years, up to 200% for those empty between 5 and 10 years, and up to 300% for properties empty for over 10 years. The guidance outlines the legal framework, exceptions, and factors councils should consider when applying these premiums, aiming to encourage the use of empty properties and support local communities.
6. <https://www.stoke.gov.uk/news/article/1489/stoke-on-trent_city_council_taking_steps_to_reduce_the_number_of_wasted_homes_in_the_city> - Stoke-on-Trent City Council is implementing a Second Homes Premium to address the impact of unoccupied and substantially furnished properties. From April 2025, properties meeting these criteria will be subject to a 100% council tax premium. The council aims to reduce the number of 'wasted' homes, encourage occupation, and generate additional revenue to support local services. Exceptions to the premium include properties actively marketed for sale or let and those subject to probate.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/second-homes-and-empty-properties> - In England, from 1 April 2025, councils can charge a council tax premium on second homes, which are furnished properties not used as a main residence. The premium can be up to 100% of the standard council tax rate. Exceptions include properties that are annexes forming part of the main dwelling, job-related accommodation, and those with planning restrictions preventing permanent occupation. Councils have discretion over the application and level of the premium, aiming to encourage the use of empty properties and support local communities.