



Decision with Statement of Reasons of Alan Strain, Legal Member of the First-tier Tribunal with delegated powers of the Chamber President of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber)

Under Rule 8 of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber Rules of Procedure 2017 ("the Rules")

Chamber Ref: reference FTS/HPC/EV/22/3667

Parties

Miss Louise Grant (Applicant)

Miss Louise Vaughan (Respondent)

Re: 42 Myrekirk Terrace, Dundee, DD2 4SP ("the Property")

Tribunal Member:

Alan Strain (Legal Member)

Decision

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) ("the Tribunal") determined that the application should be dismissed on the basis that it is frivolous within the meaning of Rule 8(1)(a) of the Procedural Rules and that it would not be appropriate to accept the application in terms of Rule 8(1)(c).

Background

1. The application was received by the Tribunal under Rule 109 on 6 October 2022. The grounds for possession/eviction were stated to be Grounds 1, 12 and 14. The following documents (in so far as relevant) were enclosed with the application:

- (i) Notice to Leave dated 2 February 2021; and
- (ii) Applicant's email of 18 November 2022.

2. The application was considered by the Tribunal. The Tribunal noted from the Notice to Leave that it was dated 2 February 2021 and that an application would not be made for an eviction order before 4 May 2021. The Tribunal by letter of 10 November 2022 requested the Applicant to confirm the date of the Notice to Leave as it would appear to be invalid (being more than 6 months after the notice specified within).

3. The Applicant responded by email of 18 November 2022 and confirmed the Notice to Leave was dated correctly.

Reasons for Decision

4. The Tribunal considered the application in terms of Rule 8 of the Chamber Procedural Rules. That Rule provides:-

"Rejection of application

8.-(1) *The Chamber President or another member of the First-tier Tribunal under the delegated powers of the Chamber President, must reject an application if-*

(a) they consider that the application is frivolous or vexatious;·
(c) they have good reason to believe that it would not be appropriate to accept the application;

(2) Where the Chamber President, or another member of the First-tier Tribunal, under the delegated powers of the Chamber President, makes a decision under paragraph (1) to reject an application the First-tier Tribunal must notify the applicant and the notification must state the reason for the decision."

5. 'Frivolous' in the context of legal proceedings is defined by Lord Justice Bingham in ***R v North West Suffolk (Mildenhall) Magistrates Court, (1998) Env. L.R. 9***. At page 16, he states: - "*What the expression means in this context is, in my view, that the court considers the application to be futile, misconceived, hopeless or academic*".

6. Section 55 of the Act provides:

55 Restriction on applying 6 months after the notice period expires

(1) A landlord may not make an application to the First-tier Tribunal for an eviction order against a tenant using a copy of a notice to leave more than six months after the day on which the relevant period in relation to that notice expired.

(2) In subsection (1), "the relevant period" has the meaning given in section 54(2).

(3) The reference in subsection (1) to using a copy of a notice to leave in making an application means using it to satisfy the requirement under section 52(3).

The relevant period in relation to the Notice to Leave expired in November 2021. It was accordingly invalid. The Tribunal could not grant the application on the basis of the invalid Notice to Leave.

7. Applying the test identified by Lord Justice Bingham in the case of ***R v North West Suffolk (Mildenhall) Magistrates Court*** (cited above) the application is frivolous, misconceived and has no prospect of success. Furthermore, the Tribunal consider that there is good reason why the application should not be accepted. The application is accordingly rejected.

Right of Appeal

In terms of Section 46 of the Tribunal (Scotland) Act 2014, a party aggrieved by the decision of the Tribunal may appeal to the Upper Tribunal for Scotland on a point of law only. Before an appeal can be made to the Upper Tribunal, the party must first seek permission to appeal from the First-tier Tribunal. That party must seek permission to appeal within 30 days of the date the decision was sent to them.

Alan Strain

13 December 2022

Legal Member/Chair

Date