



NOTICE TO LOCAL AUTHORITY
ISSUED BY
THE PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING COMMITTEE
UNDER SECTION 26(2) OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

prhp Ref: Ref:EH23/109/12

Re : "Saltatio" a flatted dwelling house within Harvieston House, by Gorebridge, Midlothian, EH23 4QA ("the House")

The Parties:-

Christopher Van Schaak, residing at the ground floor rear flatted dwelling-house, known as "Saltatio", within Harvieston House, by Gorebridge, Midlothian, EH23 4QA ("the Tenant")

Messrs M.C & R Jackson, residing at Salmon Hall, Workington, Cumbria CA14 1LW (represented by their agent Mr G Jack of Let Assured Ltd, Cargarrielea, Carllops, West Linton, EH23 4QA) ("the Landlord")

Notice is hereby given to Midlothian Council, Midlothian House Buccleuch Street Dalkeith EH22 1DN, being the local authority in which the house is situated, that there has been a failure by the Landlord to comply with a Repairing Standard Enforcement Order in relation to the property in terms of Section 26(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006. The Statement of Decision of the Private Rented Housing Committee under Section 26(1) of the said Act is attached hereto and referred to for its terms.

If an appeal against the decision of the Private Rented Housing Committee is made, then the effect of the decision and the Rent Relief Order is suspended until the appeal is abandoned or finally determined. In the event that the decision is confirmed, then the Rent Relief Order and the decision will be effective 28 days from the date on which the appeal is abandoned or so determined. If an appeal is received then the Private Rented Housing Panel will notify you of this and the eventual outcome of the appeal.

The date of service upon the parties of the decision under Section 26 of the Act is hereby certified to be 9th April 2013

In witness whereof these presents type written on this page are executed by Paul Doyle, solicitor, 24 Haddington Place, Edinburgh, chairperson of the Private Rented Housing Committee at Edinburgh on 24th October 2013 before this witness:-

J Oswald

witness

Julie Oswald
Cashier
24 Haddington Place
Edinburgh

P Doyle

chairman



Statement of facts and reasons for Determination in terms of
SECTION 26(2) OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

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STATEMENT OF FACTS & REASONS.

1. On 25th October 2012 the Private Rented Housing Committee issued a decision requiring the Landlord to comply with the repairing standard enforcement order made by the Committee on 25th October 2012. The following members constituted the Committee

Paul Doyle, Legal member
Ian Mowatt, Surveyor member
John Blackwood, Housing member.

2. On 15th February 2013 the surveyor member of the Committee inspected the property. After this inspection the Committee was concerned that no efforts had been made by the Landlord to carry out the work specified in the repairing standard enforcement order; the repairing standard enforcement order has not been complied with.

3. On 15th February 2013, the surveyor member noted that

"At the time of the re-inspection no work appeared to have been carried out regarding any of the RSEO items listed above.

"Works in RSEO outstanding:

"All of works remained outstanding at the time of the re-inspection. The tenant indicated that no contact had been made by the landlord, agent or contractors with a view to arranging access to carry out any of the RSEO works."

4. The Committee returned to this property on 28th March 2013, when, in the company of Mr G Jack (the Landlord's representative) the tenant invited the committee into the property. On inspection, it was obvious that none of the work required by the RSEO had been attempted. The Tenant confirmed that no works had been carried out. Mr Jack, for the Landlord, confirmed that none of the works required by the RSEO had been attended to.
5. A hearing took place at Middleton Village Hall at 11.45 the same day. The tenant was present. Mr Jack represented the landlord. Mr Jack admitted that the works required had not been attended to, & explained that missives had been concluded for the sale of the property, but the transaction had not yet settled. The missives provide that the purchaser of the property accepts responsibility for the works required by the RSEO.
6. The Committee find that the contract apparently transferring responsibility for the RSEO is entirely irrelevant. The Landlord admits that the works required have not been carried out. The works required affect the safety of the tenants & the safety & integrity of the larger building of which the dwelling-house forms part. Adequate time has been allowed for the works to be carried out, & no realistic effort has been made to comply with the RSEO. The Landlord's position is that the RSEO should be varied to allow a further four weeks from the future date of entry (which has not yet been defined). The Committee noted that five months have passed since the RSEO was made & intimated, and no use has been made by the Landlord of the time so far allowed to comply with the RSEO.
7. The RSEO required the Landlord
 - (a) To obtain from an NICEIC registered electrical contractor a full inspection & report on the electrical system, including lighting. Thereafter, to carry out all recommendations within the report & provide an electrical safety & compliance certificate, which should be made available to the panel prior to re-inspection.
 - (b) Facilitate an inspection by the Senior Fire Safety Officer, Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service; obtain the senior fire safety officers report, carry out all & any works recommended by the Senior Fire Safety Officer; then make his report available to the panel prior to re-inspection.
 - (c) Install satisfactory mains wired smoke detectors in compliance with the current statutory regulations.
 - (d) To carry out such works as are necessary to ensure that the property is wind & water tight, including repair & replacement of external rendering & guttering; repointing of masonry work,; and specialist damp eradication – including any necessary timber repairs & replacement to remedy rotten & defective timbers.
 - (e) Then to obtain a satisfactory report from a specialist damp & rot eradication contractor to be exhibited to the panel prior to re-inspection.

(f) Facilitate an inspection by the Senior Fire Safety Officer, obtain the fire safety officers report, carry out all & any works recommended by the Senior Fire Safety Officer; then make his report available to the panel prior to re-inspection.

(g) Eradicate the vermin infesting the property.

8. Despite the passage of time, the Landlord has not carried out any of the works require by the RSEO. The Committee considered carefully the terms of s.26(4) of the 2006 Act. On the evidence placed before us, no realistic explanation for failure to carry out works necessary to comply with the repairing standard has been advanced.

9. The Committee is concerned that no efforts have been made by the Landlord to carry out all of the work specified in the repairing standard enforcement order; the Landlord has chosen not to comply with the repairing standard enforcement order.

10. In the circumstances the Committee can only come to the unanimous conclusion that the Landlord has taken inadequate steps to comply with the repairing standard enforcement order dated 25th October 2012. The Committee will send a notice to the Local authority in terms of s.26(2) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006..

11. A Landlord or a Tenant aggrieved by the decision of the Private Rented Housing Committee may appeal to the Sheriff by summary application within 21 days of being notified of that decision.

12. Where such an appeal is made the effect of the decision and the certificate are suspended until the Appeal is abandoned or finally determined. Where the Appeal is abandoned or finally determined by confirming the decision, the decision and the certificate are to be treated as having effect from the day on which the Appeal is abandoned or so determined.

P Doyle

Signed:.....
Paul Doyle, Chairperson



**Statement of facts and reasons for Decision to grant a
Rent Relief Order
Under Section 27 of the Housing
(Scotland) Act 2006**

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NOTICE TO Messrs M.C & R Jackson, residing at Salmon Hall, Workington, Cumbria CA14 1LW ("the Landlord")

STATEMENT OF FACTS & REASONS.

(1) On 25th October 2012 the Private Rented Housing Committee issued a decision requiring the Landlord to comply with the repairing standard enforcement order made by the Committee on 25th October 2012. On 15th February 2013 the surveyor member of the Committee inspected the property. After this inspection the Committee was concerned that no effort whatsoever had been made by the Landlord to carry out the work specified in the repairing standard enforcement order; the repairing standard enforcement order had not been complied with.

(2) The surveyor member noted that

"At the time of the re-inspection no work appeared to have been carried out regarding any of the RSEO items listed above.

"Works in RSEO outstanding:

"All of works remained outstanding at the time of the re-inspection. The tenant indicated that no contact had been made by the landlord, agent or contractors with a view to arranging access to carry out any of the RSEO works."

(3) The Committee returned to this property on 28th March 2013, when, in the company of Mr G Jack (the Landlord's representative) the tenant invited the committee into the property. On inspection, it was obvious that no effort had been made to attempt any of the works required by the RSEO. The Tenant complained

that no works had been carried out. Mr Jack, for the Landlord, confirmed that none of the work required by the RSEO had been attended to.

(4) A hearing took place at Middleton Village Hall at 11.45 the same day. The tenant was present. Mr Jack represented the landlord. Mr Jack admitted that the works required had not been attended to, & explained that missives had been concluded for the sale of the property, but the transaction had not yet settled. The missives provide that the purchaser of the property accepts responsibility for the works required by the RSEO.

(5) We find that the contract apparently transferring responsibility for the RSEO is entirely irrelevant. The Landlord admits that the works required have not been carried out. The works required affect the safety of the tenant, & the safety & integrity of the larger building of which the dwelling-house forms part. Adequate time has been allowed for the works to be carried out, & no realistic effort has been made to comply with the RSEO. The Landlord's position is that a bargain has been concluded for the sale of the property, so the RSEO should be varied to allow a further four weeks from the future date of entry (which has not yet been defined). The Committee noted that five months have passed since the RSEO was made & intimated, and no use has been made by the Landlord of the time so far allowed to comply with the RSEO.

(6) In the circumstances the committee can only come to the conclusion that the Landlord has chosen to ignore the terms of the repairing standard enforcement order dated 25th October 2012. Accordingly the Committee decides to impose a rent relief order. As the landlord has chosen not to carry out the repairs required, and the quality of the tenant's peaceful enjoyment and safety of the property is adversely affected by the Landlord's decision, the Committee decided that significant restriction of rental is merited. The Committee therefore granted a Rent Relief Order for 90% of the monthly rental.

(7) A Landlord or a Tenant aggrieved by the decision of the Private Rented Housing Committee may appeal to the Sheriff by summary application within 21 days of being notified of that decision.

(8) Where such an appeal is made the effect of the decision and the certificate are suspended until the Appeal is abandoned or finally determined. Where the Appeal is abandoned or finally determined by confirming the decision, the decision and the certificate are to be treated as having effect from the day on which the Appeal is abandoned or so determined.

P Doyle

Signed:.....

Paul Doyle, Chairperson