



Decision with Statement of Reasons of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) under Section 71 of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016

Chamber Ref: FTS/HPC/CV/23/2324

Re: Property at 0/1 75 Glanderston Drive, Glasgow, G13 3UG (“the Property”)

Parties:

Mrs Narinder Burmy, 188 Southbrae Drive, Glasgow, G13 1TX (“the Applicant”)

Miss Ashley Stewart, 0/1 75 Glanderston Drive, Glasgow, G13 3UG (“the Respondent”)

Tribunal Members:

Neil Kinnear (Legal Member) and Helen Barclay (Ordinary Member)

Decision (in absence of the Respondent)

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) (“the Tribunal”) determined that

Background

This was an application for a payment order dated 12th July 2023 and brought in terms of Rule 111 (Application for civil proceedings in relation to a private residential tenancy) of *The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (Procedure) Regulations 2017* as amended.

The Applicant sought in her application payment of arrears in rental payments of £2,405.00 together with interest from the date of any decision in relation to the Property from the Respondent in relation to the Property from the Respondent and provided with her application copies of the private residential tenancy agreement, rent increase notice and rent arrears statement.

The private residential tenancy agreement had been correctly and validly prepared in terms of the provisions of the *Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016*, and

the procedures set out in that Act appeared to have been correctly followed and applied.

The Respondent had been validly served by sheriff officers with the notification, application, papers and guidance notes from the Tribunal on 24th November 2023, and the Tribunal was provided with the execution of service.

By e-mail to the Tribunal of 1st November 2023, the Applicant provided an updated rent arrears statement disclosing arrears to that date of £3,505.00, and amended the sum sought in the application to that amount in terms of Rule 14A of *The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (Procedure) Regulations 2017* as amended.

By e-mail to the Tribunal dated 13th December 2023, the Respondent explained that she had suffered a number of family bereavements and health issues, which had caused her to fall behind with her rent. She indicated her willingness to repay the arrears.

Case Management Discussion

A Case Management Discussion was held at 14:00 on 19th January 2024 by Tele-Conference. The Applicant did not participate, but was represented by Ms McCulloch, letting agent. The Respondent did not participate, nor was she represented.

The Tribunal was satisfied that the requirements of giving notice had been duly complied with, and proceeded with the application in terms of Rules 17 and 29 of *The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (Procedure) Regulations 2017* as amended.

Ms McCulloch invited the Tribunal with reference to the application and papers to grant an order for payment of the sum of £3,505.00 with interest from the date of the Tribunal's decision until payment in terms of Rule 41A of *The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (Procedure) Regulations 2017* as amended. She advised the Tribunal that arrears had increased to £3,705.00, but indicated that she did not intend to seek to amend the sum sought in this application.

Statement of Reasons

The jurisdiction of the Tribunal in relation to Private Residential Tenancies, such as that which applied to the Property, is set by statute. Section 71(1) of the *Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016* provides:

“First-tier Tribunal's jurisdiction

- (1) In relation to civil proceedings arising from a private residential tenancy—
- (a) the First-tier Tribunal has whatever competence and jurisdiction a sheriff would have but for paragraph (b),
 - (b) a sheriff does not have competence or jurisdiction.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), civil proceedings are any proceedings other than—
- (a) the prosecution of a criminal offence,
 - (b) any proceedings related to such a prosecution.”

The Tribunal accordingly has jurisdiction to hear civil proceedings arising from a private residential tenancy such as between the parties in this application.

The Tribunal considered the terms of the private residential tenancy agreement, the rent increase notice, the rent arrears information provided, and the submissions made by Ms McCulloch, and was satisfied that these disclosed an outstanding balance of rent arrears due of £3,505.00. Rental of £500.00 per month was payable in advance in terms of clause 8 of the private residential tenancy agreement. By agreement, the parties had reduced that figure to £475.00 until 29th November 2022 when it was raised to £525.00. Accordingly, the Tribunal made an order for payment of that sum.

The Applicant also sought interest on that amount in terms of Rule 41A of *The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (Procedure) Regulations 2017* as amended.

In terms of that rule, the Tribunal may include interest at the rate either stated in the tenancy agreement, or ordered by the Tribunal. No rate is specified in the tenancy agreement, so it was for the Tribunal to order what rate to apply.

In the absence of any guidance on this matter, it appeared to the Tribunal to be just to award interest at a rate representing the investment or borrowing rate of lending banks for short term loans, which is currently approximately 5.25% per annum, and the Tribunal accordingly did so.

Decision

In these circumstances, the Tribunal made an order for payment by the Respondent to the Applicant of the sum of £3,505.00 with interest thereon at the rate of five and one quarter per cent per annum from the date of the decision of the Tribunal until payment.

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.

N Kinnear

19th January 2024

Legal Member/Chair

Date