



**DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS OF PETRA HENNIG MCFATRIDGE LEGAL
MEMBER OF THE FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL WITH DELEGATED POWERS OF THE CHAMBER
PRESIDENT**

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

in connection with

Case reference FTS/HPC/PR/26/3307

Parties

Ms Tochukwu Obianuju Osajiuba (Applicant)

13/4 South Fort Street, Edinburgh, EH6 4DL (House)

1. On 15.7.2026 the First –tier Tribunal for Scotland, Housing and Property Chamber (the FTT) received the application from the under Rule 103 of the Rules of Procedure. The application was directed against the company stated as the Letting Agent (LA) in the tenancy agreement submitted with the application. The landlord's name was not stated on the application. The Respondent's address was given as that of the LA. The property is registered under the landlord's name in the landlord register. In box 6 the Respondent is identified further under the relevant LARN number. The Applicant specified that the application is made with regard to the return of the full deposit amount and there is no mention of the deposit not having been lodged in accordance with the Regulations. The tenancy end date is given as 1.3.2026.
2. All documents are referred to for their terms and held to be incorporated herein.

B DECISION

1. I considered the application in terms of Rule 8 of the 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;*
- (b) the dispute to which the application relates has been resolved;*
- (c) they have good reason to believe that it would not be appropriate to accept the application;*
- (d) they consider that the application is being made for a purpose other than a purpose specified in the application; or*
- (e) the applicant has previously made an identical or substantially similar application and in the opinion of the Chamber President or another member of the First-tier Tribunal, under the delegated powers of the Chamber President, there has been no significant change in any material considerations since the identical or substantially similar application was determined.*

(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."

2. **After consideration of the application, the attachments and correspondence from the Applicant, I consider that the application should be rejected in terms of Rule 8 (c) of the Rules of Procedure on the basis as the Tribunal has good reason to believe that it would not be appropriate to accept the application.**

C RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber Rules of Procedure 2017

Rule 103. Where a tenant or former tenant makes an application under regulation 9 (First-tier Tribunal orders) of the 2011 Regulations, the application must—

(a)state—

(i)the name and address of the tenant or former tenant;

(ii)the name, address and profession of any representative of the tenant or former tenant; and

(iii)the name, address and registration number (if any) of the landlord;

(b)be accompanied by a copy of the tenancy agreement (if available) or, if this is not available, as much information about the tenancy as the tenant or former tenant can give;

(c)evidence of the date of the end of the tenancy (if available); and

(d)be signed and dated by the tenant or former tenant or a representative of the tenant or former tenant.

Requirements for making an application

Regulation 9 of The Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Regulations 2011

(1) A tenant who has paid a tenancy deposit may apply to the First-tier Tribunal for an order under regulation 10 where the landlord did not comply with any duty in regulation 3 in respect of that tenancy deposit.

(2) An application under paragraph (1) must ... be made no later than 3 months after the tenancy has ended."

D REASONS FOR DECISION

1. In terms of Regulation 9 of The Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Regulations 2011 "(1) A tenant who has paid a tenancy deposit may apply to the First-tier Tribunal for an order under regulation 10 where the landlord did not comply with any duty in regulation 3 in respect of that tenancy deposit. (2) An application under paragraph (1) must ... be made no later than 3 months after the tenancy has ended." Regulation 10 then states: "If satisfied that the landlord did not comply with any duty in regulation 3 the First-tier Tribunal (a) must order the landlord to pay the tenant an amount not exceeding three times the amount of the tenancy deposit..."
2. The Applicant confirms that the tenancy ended on 1.3.2026.
3. The period of 3 months within which the application can be lodged started on the end date of the tenancy and thus on 1.3.2026 and expired on 1.6.2026. The application made on 15.7.2026 was made outwith the 3 months time period during which such applications can be made and the FTT has no option but to reject the application as late. The FTT has no discretion in the matter and cannot extend that time period.
4. Also, in terms of Regulation 10 the Tribunal can only order a landlord to pay a penalty, not a letting agent. An application under rule 103 therefore has to be

made against the landlord and not against the letting agent. The application was clearly made against the LA, using the LA's name in the Respondent details box on the application and giving their address and not against the landlord stated in the tenancy agreement. Thus at the time the application was sent on 15.7.2026 it was not made against the correct Respondent and did not meet the required manner for lodgement. In terms of Rule 5 (3) of the Procedural Rules "the application is to be held to be made on the date that the First-tier Tribunal receives the last of any outstanding documents necessary to meet the required manner for lodgement."

5. The application was not a valid application in terms of rule 103 as it was out of time and directed against the LA and not against the landlord. Even if the application had been directed correctly against the landlord, it would have to be rejected as the application was simply made too late. The period to make a valid application expired on 1.6.2026 and thus a valid application under this rule can now no longer be made.
6. It would not be appropriate for the Tribunal to accept an application which is made outwith the statutory time period and, in this case, also against the wrong Respondent. Any further application or amendment to the existing application would be out with the 3 months time limit stated in Regulation 9 of The Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Regulations 2011.
7. The Upper Tribunal has confirmed in previous decisions that the FTT is bound by the lodging requirements stated in primary legislation and regulations and does not have the power to accept applications which do not meet the statutory requirements for such applications. In UT 18 [2019] Sheriff Deutsch states: "*[1] The appellant in his email of 5 August 2018 advances a number of cogent reasons why, if it had a discretion to do so, the tribunal might allow the application for an eviction order to proceed, notwithstanding the defect identified in the notice to leave upon which the appellant relies. Unfortunately no such discretion exists. The tribunal can only operate within the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act") and subordinate legislation in the form of regulations made by the Scottish Ministers. In UT60 [2019] Sheriff Di Emidio states at paragraph 14: "It does not matter whether the application was treated as having been submitted on 18 February 2019 or 27 March 2019 or 4 April 2019 or 15 May 2019. The FtT's decision was correct because the information provided by the appellant meant that the application was too late having regard to statutory time limit stated in rule 9. The fact that the HPC Administration required him to submit a different form may have served to muddy the waters but there is no arguable error of law arising out of maladministration which has contributed to any injustice to the appellant."*
8. The application thus has to be rejected.

What you should do now

If you accept the Legal Member's decision, there is no need to reply.

If you disagree with this decision:-

An applicant aggrieved by the decision of the Chamber President, or any Legal Member acting under delegated powers, 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. Information about the appeal procedure can be forwarded to you on request.

Petra Hennig McFatridge
Legal Member
20 July 2026