



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: FTS/HPC/CV/20/1172

Re: 1B Grieve Road, Seafar, Cumbernauld, G67 1AE ("the Property")

Parties

Mr John McColl, Mrs Clare McColl (Applicant)

Mr William Rowlands, Mrs Tanya Rowlands (Respondent)

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 rejected 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 70 on 12 May 2020. The application sought an order for payment in respect of rental arrears. The following documents were enclosed with the application:
 - (i) Tenancy Agreement (**TA**) commencing 10 November 2016;
 - (ii) Rent Statement;
 - (iii) Correspondence between the Parties sent under cover of email dated 4 June 2020.

Reasons for Decision

2. 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."

3. '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".
4. The Tribunal wrote to the Applicants by letter of 11 June 2020 asking for further information:

"Before a decision can be made, we need you to provide us with the following:

- *It appears from your response and the copy messages you have provided that the Respondents are not residing at the property. The application, if accepted, has to be served on the Respondents by the Tribunal at their home address. This will not be arranged until a case management hearing is scheduled. Please provide their current address. If this changes you should update the Tribunal immediately. If you do not have their address you will require to apply for service by advertisement using the form on the Tribunal website. When submitting this application you should provide evidence of your attempts to obtain a current address, such as a trace carried out by a Sheriff Officer.*

*Please reply to this office with the necessary information by **25 June 2020**. If we do not hear from you within this time, the President may decide to reject the application."*

5. No response was received. The Tribunal wrote again on 14 July 2020 requesting:

"We refer to the Tribunals letter dated 11th June 2020. No response has been received. Please reply to this office with the necessary information by 28 July 2020. If we do not hear from you within this time, the President may decide to reject the application."

No Response was received.

6. In light of the failure to provide the information required the Tribunal considered the test identified by Lord Justice Bingham in the case of ***R v North West Suffolk (Mildenhall) Magistrates Court*** (cited above). The application could not proceed against the Respondent without the information requested. The Tribunal considered that the application was frivolous, misconceived and had no prospect of success. Furthermore, the Tribunal consider that the failure to provide the required information constituted 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

24 August 2020

Legal Member/Chair

Date