

**Decision with Statement of Reasons of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland
(Housing and Property Chamber) under Section 18 of the Housing (Scotland)
Act 1988**

Chamber Ref: FTS/HPC/EV/20/1331

Re: Property at 100 Oswald Road, Ayr, KA8 8NX (“the Property”)

Parties:

CDP Property Limited, 29 Bellevue Road, Prestwick, KA9 1NJ (“the Applicant”)

Miss Lynsey Harvie, 100 Oswald Road, Ayr, KA8 8NX (“the Respondent”)

Tribunal Members:

Fiona Watson (Legal Member)

Decision (in absence of the Respondent)

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) (“the Tribunal”) determined that order is granted against the Respondent for possession of the Property under section 18 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988.

- Background
 1. An application dated 15 June 2020 was submitted to the Tribunal under Rule 65 of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber Rules of Procedure 2017 (“the Rules”), seeking a repossession order against the Respondent under a short assured tenancy agreement and in terms of section 18 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 (“the 1988 Act”).
- The Case Management Discussion
 2. A Case Management Discussion (“CMD”) took place on 21 August 2020 by tele-conference. The Applicant was represented by Christine Daly. There was no appearance by or on behalf of the Respondent. The application had been intimated on the Respondent by Sheriff Officer on 3 August 2020. The Tribunal was accordingly satisfied that the Respondent had been duly notified of the

date and time of the CMD and that the CMD could proceed in the Respondent's absence.

3. The Applicant sought an order for repossession on the basis that the Respondent had accrued arrears of rent due under a short assured tenancy agreement. The arrears of rent due at the point of lodging the application were £7351.05. The arrears had continued to rise and at the date of the CMD were £7939.61. The monthly rent was £500. A Notice to Quit and Form AT6 relying on Grounds 8, 11 and 12 under Schedule 5 to the 1988 Act had been served on the Respondent and she had failed to either address the rent arrears or remove from the property.

- Findings in Fact

4. The Tribunal made the following findings in fact:

- (i) The parties entered into a Short Assured Tenancy Agreement ("the Agreement") which commenced 1 January 2016;
- (ii) A Notice to Quit and Form AT6 under section 19 of the 1988 Act were served on the Respondent on 14 January 2020 by recorded delivery post;
- (iii) The Notice to Quit required the Respondent to remove from the Property by 30 March 2020;
- (iv) The Form AT6 under section 19 of the 1988 Act relied on grounds 8, 11 and 12 under Schedule 5 to the 1988 Act;
- (v) The Form AT6 under section 19 of the 1988 Act advised that proceedings would not be raised before 31 March 2020;
- (vi) The Respondent had failed to remove from the Property and continued to reside therein.

- Reasons for Decision

5. Section 18 of the 1988 Act states as follows:

18 (1) The First-tier Tribunal shall not make an order for possession of a house let on an assured tenancy except on one or more of the grounds set out in Schedule 5 to this Act.

(2) The following provisions of this section have effect, subject to section 19 below, in relation to proceedings for the recovery of possession of a house let on an assured tenancy.

(3) If the First-tier Tribunal is satisfied that any of the grounds in Part I of Schedule 5 to this Act is established then, subject to subsections (3A) and (6) below, the Tribunal shall make an order for possession.

(3A) If the First-tier Tribunal is satisfied—

(a) that Ground 8 in Part I of Schedule 5 to this Act is established; and

(b) that rent is in arrears as mentioned in that Ground as a consequence of a delay or failure in the payment of relevant housing benefit or relevant universal credit, the Tribunal shall not make an order for possession unless the Tribunal considers it reasonable to do so.

(4) If the First-tier Tribunal is satisfied that any of the grounds in Part II of Schedule 5 to this Act is established, the Tribunal shall not make an order for possession unless the Tribunal considers it reasonable to do so.

(4A) In considering for the purposes of subsection (4) above whether it is reasonable to make an order for possession on Ground 11 or 12 in Part II of Schedule 5 to this Act, the First-tier Tribunal shall have regard, in particular, to the extent to which any delay or failure to pay rent taken into account by the Tribunal in determining that the Ground is established is or was a consequence of a delay or failure in the payment of relevant housing benefit or relevant universal credit.

(5) Part III of Schedule 5 to this Act shall have effect for supplementing Ground 9 in that Schedule and Part IV of that Schedule shall have effect in relation to notices given as mentioned in Grounds 1 to 5 of that Schedule.

(6) The First-tier Tribunal shall not make an order for possession of a house which is for the time being let on an assured tenancy, not being a statutory assured tenancy, unless—

(a) the ground for possession is Ground 2 or Ground 8 in Part I of Schedule 5 to this Act or any of the grounds in Part II of that Schedule, other than Ground 9, Ground 10, Ground 15 or Ground 17; and

(b) the terms of the tenancy make provision for it to be brought to an end on the ground in question.

(6A) Nothing in subsection (6) above affects the First-tier Tribunal's power to make an order for possession of a house which is for the time being let on an assured tenancy, not being a statutory assured tenancy, where the ground for possession is Ground 15 in Part II of Schedule 5 to this Act.

(7) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, the First-tier Tribunal may make an order for possession of a house on grounds relating to a contractual tenancy which has been terminated; and where an order is made in such circumstances, any statutory assured tenancy which has arisen on that termination shall, without any notice, end on the day on which the order takes effect.

(8) In subsections (3A) and (4A) above—

(a) "relevant housing benefit" means—

(i) any rent allowance or rent rebate to which the tenant was entitled in respect of the rent under the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987 (S.I. 1987/1971); or

(ii) any payment on account of any such entitlement awarded under Regulation 91 of those Regulations;

(aa) “relevant universal credit” means universal credit to which the tenant was entitled which includes an amount under section 11 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 in respect of the rent;

(b) references to delay or failure in the payment of relevant housing benefit or relevant universal credit do not include such delay or failure so far as referable to any act or omission of the tenant.

6. Ground 8 of Schedule 5 to the 1988 Act states as follows:

Both at the date of the service of the notice under section 19 of this Act relating to the proceedings for possession and at the date of the hearing or the date of the case management discussion, whichever is the earlier, at least three months rent lawfully due from the tenant is in arrears.

7. Ground 11 of Schedule 5 to the 1988 Act states as follows:

Whether or not any rent is in arrears on the date on which proceedings for possession are begun, the tenant has persistently delayed paying rent which has become lawfully due.

8. Ground 12 of Schedule 5 to the 198 Act states as follows:

Some rent lawfully due from the tenant—

*(a) is unpaid on the date on which the proceedings for possession are begun;
and*

(b) except where subsection (1)(b) of section 19 of this Act applies, was in arrears at the date of the service of the notice under that section relating to those proceedings.

9. The Tribunal was satisfied that the grounds relied upon in the Form AT6 had been met. At the date of service of the AT6 on the Respondent, there were rent arrears of £5988.58. The monthly rent was £500. At the date of the Case

Management Discussion, the arrears stood at £7939.61. Accordingly, both at the date of service of the AT6 and at the date the case called before the Tribunal, there were at least three months of arrears due. Further, in terms of Ground 11 the Tribunal was satisfied that the Respondent had persistently delayed paying rent which has become lawfully due. Accordingly, the Applicant was entitled to the Order for Repossession as sought.

- Decision

10. The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) granted an order against the Respondent for possession of the Property under section 18 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988.

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.

Fiona Watson

Legal Member/Chair

21 August 2020
Date