Decision with Statement of Reasons of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) under Section 16 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014

Chamber Ref: FTS/HPC/CV/21/0250

Re: Property at 63 Woodend Walk, Armadale, West Lothian, EH48 3QN ("the Property")

Parties:

Miss Kira McManus, 28 Morgan Way, Armadale, West Lothian, EH48 2JB ("the Applicant")

Miss Michelle 'Shelly' Stolarek, 7 Woodside Place, Bridgend, Linlithgow, EH49 6PF ("the Respondent")

Tribunal Members:

Alison Kelly (Legal Member)

Decision (in absence of the Respondent)

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) ("the Tribunal") determined that on order for payment in the amount of £4750 should be made, payable at the rate of £200 per month.

The Applicant lodged an application on the 1st February 2021 under Rule 111 of the First Tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (Procedure) Regulations 2017 ("the Rules"), seeking payment of rent arrears in the amount of £4750.

Lodged with the application were:-

- 1. The Tenancy Agreement
- 2. Copy Text Messages
- 3. Rent Statement

On 12th April 2021 the Respondent lodged a Time To Pay Application. She offered to pay at the rate of £50 per month.

On 15th April 2021 the Applicant lodged a rejection of the Time To Pay Application.

Case Management Discussion

The Case Management Discussion ("CMD") took place by teleconference. The Applicant attended, with her supporter, Sharon Robertson. There was no attendance by the Respondent or any representative on her behalf.

The Tribunal explained the purposes of a CMD in terms of Rule 17 of the Rules. The Applicant said she was looking for a payment in order in the amount of £4750. She would be happy with instalments to £200 per month, but did not think that £50 per month, as offered by the Respondent was acceptable.

The Applicant moved to amend the Respondent's address to 7 Woodside Place, Bridgend, Linlithgow, EH49 6PF. The Tribunal granted this.

Findings in Fact

- 1. The parties entered into a Tenancy Agreement in respect of the property;
- 2. The monthly rent was £500;
- 3. The Respondent had lodged a Time To Pay Application accepting the sum due.

Reasons for Decision

The Tribunal considered that the offer of £50 per month was too low. It would take over 8 years to pay back the debt. The Respondent had not included her partner's income in the Time To Pay Application. The Tribunal considered that the figures given by the Respondent for outgoings were high in relation to Sky TV, travel to work and school dinners. The Applicant was prepared to accept payment at £200 per month and the Tribunal considered this to be an affordable amount for the Respondent.

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.

Legal Member: Alison Kelly Date: 27/04/2021

Alison Kelly