



Decision with Statement of Reasons of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) under Section 51 (1) of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 (Act)

Chamber Ref: FTS/HPC/EV/23/1524

Re: Property at 40D Clelland Avenue, Auchinairn, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 1RL (“the Property”)

Parties:

Mr Craig Aitcheson, 21 Stanley Drive, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 2LB (“the Applicant”)

Mary Watson, 40D Clelland Avenue, Auchinairn, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 1RL (“the Respondent”)

Tribunal Members:

Alan Strain (Legal Member) and Mary Lyden (Ordinary Member)

Decision

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) (“the Tribunal”) determined that the application for eviction and recovery of possession be granted subject to the suspensive condition that it was not to be executed prior to 12 noon on the earlier of (a) the day following the end of a period of 6 months beginning with the day on which the order was granted, or (b) the expiry or suspension of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022.

Background

This is an application under Rule 109 and section 51(1) of the Act in respect of the Applicants’ intention to sell the Property and for eviction and recovery of possession on Ground 1 of Schedule 3 to the Act.

The Tribunal had regard to the following documents:

1. Application received 11 May 2023;

2. Private Residential Tenancy Agreement (**PRTA**) commencing 25 January 2018;
3. Notice to Leave dated 27 January 2023 and served by email of the same date;
4. Section 11 Notice to Local Authority and proof of sending by email;
5. Terms of engagement with estate agents confirming instruction to market and sell the Property dated 30 May 2023;
6. Written Representations from the Applicant dated 24 July 2023.

Case Management Discussion (CMD)

The case called for a CMD by conference call on 9 August 2023. The Applicant did not participate but was represented by his Letting Agent. The Respondent participated and was represented by CAB.

The Tribunal heard from both Parties and clarified that the application was not being opposed.

The Tribunal then asked Parties about their particular circumstances so that the Tribunal could assess the question of “reasonableness”.

The Applicant wished to sell the Property to facilitate the purchase of accommodation for himself and his 7 year old child. He had health issues as did his parents with whom he was living at the moment.

The Respondent’s position was that she lived in the Property with her partner and 10 month old child. She worked part-time locally and had the support of family in the locality. Her partner was not working at the moment. She wished to stay in the area but in discussions with the local authority it appeared she could be rehomed anywhere in the local authority area. There were limited housing association stock available and private rented housing in the locality was scarce, highly sought after and expensive.

Having heard from the Parties the Tribunal had regard to the terms of Ground 1:

Landlord intends to sell

1(1) It is an eviction ground that the landlord intends to sell the let property.

(2) The First-tier Tribunal may find that the ground named by sub-paragraph (1) applies if the landlord—

(a) is entitled to sell the let property,

(b) intends to sell it for market value, or at least put it up for sale, within 3 months of the tenant ceasing to occupy it, and

(c) the Tribunal is satisfied that it is reasonable to issue an eviction order on account of those facts.

(3) Evidence tending to show that the landlord has the intention mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(b) includes (for example)—

(a) a letter of engagement from a solicitor or estate agent concerning the sale of the let property,

(b) a recently prepared document that anyone responsible for marketing the let property would be required to possess under section 98 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 were the property already on the market.

The Tribunal then considered the documentary and oral evidence it had received from the Parties and in so far as material made the following findings in fact:

1. The Parties let the subjects under a PRTA commencing 25 January 2018;
2. The Applicant is the owner of the Property and intends to sell it or at least put it up for sale within 3 months of the Respondent ceasing to occupy it;
3. Notice to Leave had been served on the Respondent by email;
4. The Applicant has engaged estate agents to market and sell the Property;
5. Section 11 notification had been served on the local authority;
6. The Applicant's financial situation is such that he needs to sell the Property to fund accommodation for himself and his 7 year old child;
7. The Applicant suffered from ill-health as did his parents with whom he was residing;
8. The Respondent was actively pursuing applications for alternative accommodation, did not wish to move from the locality due to family support and work commitments in the area.

The Tribunal considered all of the evidence and submissions. The Tribunal were aware that it had to be satisfied that it was reasonable in the circumstances to grant the order sought.

The Tribunal sought to make a fair and just decision. The Tribunal determined that it would be reasonable to grant the order in the knowledge that the order would be subject to the suspensive conditions of the **Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022**. This would give the Applicant certainty as to when he would have vacant possession and the ability to market and sell the Property. This would also afford the Respondent time to attempt to secure alternative accommodation.

The Tribunal was satisfied that Ground 1 had been established and accordingly granted the application for eviction and recovery of possession.

The Tribunal considered the terms of the **Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022** which clearly applied to the application by virtue of the application being received after the commencement date of the Act.

The Tribunal granted the order with the suspensive condition that it was not to be executed prior to 12 noon on the earlier of (a) the day following the end of a period of 6 months beginning with the day on which the order was granted, or (b) the expiry or suspension of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the **Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022**.

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

9 August 2023

Legal Member/Chair

Date