



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/PR/21/1159

Re: 43 H Oakshaw Street East, Paisley, PA1 2DD ("the Property")

Parties

Mr Matthew Burns (Applicant)
Mrs Isabel Ann Petrie (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 dismissed 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 dated 24 June 2020 was received by the Tribunal under Rule 103 on 13 May 2021. The application was in respect of an alleged failure of the Landlord to protect a tenancy deposit under the **Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (Regulations)**.

2. The application was considered by the Tribunal on 25 May 2021. The Applicant was asked to provide further information as follows:

"Before a decision can be made, we need you to provide us with the following: The documents you have lodged indicate that the tenancy ended in October 2020. An application under Rule 103 and the tenancy deposit regulations must be lodged within 3 months of a tenancy ending. Please clarify the basis upon which the Tribunal can consider the application. Please reply to this office with the necessary information by 8 June 2021. If we do not hear from you within this time, the President may decide to reject the application."

3. The Applicant responded by email of 27 May 2021 in the following terms:

"I am writing this email in relation to an ongoing dispute. I hope you can understand due to Covid most if not all companies and public services are running on skeleton staff. I didn't know how to approach the situation and had my lawyer deal with the matter in hand. I filled out a form for the small claims court and later on found out they didn't do it it was the first tier tribunal. So I contacted paisley citizens advice and since then John has guided me in the right direction, I have only found out that I could only lodge an application within 3 months of my tenancy ending and feel like Covid has slowed me down a bit and not having the right information, I also feel it's shouldn't really matter whether it was 30 days, 3 months or longer Mrs Petrie should be held accountable for her actions and she knew fine well what she was doing when she didn't put my deposit into a government scheme. I hope you can accept my application and help me make sure Mrs Petrie doesn't do this again."

4. The **Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (Regulations)** clearly provide in terms of Regulation 9.2 that an application *"must be made no later than 3 months after the tenancy has ended."* The Tribunal has no discretion to extend the time limit or allow an application late. If an application is received after the expiry of the 3 month time limit in Regulation 9.2 then that is an end of the matter notwithstanding any explanation that may be advanced by an Applicant.

Reasons for Decision

5. 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."

6. '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"*.

7. The application seeks to proceed under Rule 103 and Regulation 9 of the Regulations. Regulation 9.2 provides that such applications should be made no later than 3 months after the tenancy has ended. The Applicant has submitted his

application more than 3 months after the tenancy has terminated. The application is out of time and the Tribunal cannot grant the order sought.

8. Applying the test identified by Lord Justice Bingham in the case of ***R v North West Suffolk (Mildenhall) Magistrates Court*** (cited above) the application is frivolous, misconceived and has no prospect of success. Furthermore, the Tribunal consider that there is 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

10 June 2021

Legal Member/Chair

Date