

**PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING PANEL****RENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984****Notification Of Decision By The Private Rented Housing Committee**

REFERENCE NO:	OBJECTION RECEIVED	OBJECTION
RAC/G13/757	28 June 2010	Tenant

ADDRESS OF PREMISES

Flat G 1/7, 1618 Great Western Road, Glasgow, G13 1HQ

TENANT

Miss C Rankin

NAME AND ADDRESS OF LANDLORD AGENT

Gauld Properties Ltd
22 Milnpark Street
Glasgow
G41 1BB

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

First and second floor maisonette in non-traditional 5 storey building C.1960 with commercial property on ground floor and 2 rows of 9 maisonettes on upper four floors, with rear walkway access, comprising 3 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Gross internal floor area is approximately 63 sq. m. With electric central heating and partial double glazing.

SERVICES PROVIDED

None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN
SURVEYOR
HOUSING PANEL MEMBER

J Taylor LLB Dip LP NP
M Links FRICS
S Campbell

FAIR RENT	DATE OF DECISION	EFFECTIVE DATE
£ 4,175.00 p.a.	8 September 2010	8 September 2010

J Taylor

Chairman of Private Rented Housing Committee

14th September 2010

Date



STATEMENT OF REASONS

in connection with

INSPECTION HELD ON 8th September 2010

In relation to the property

Flat G 1/7, 1618, Great Western Road, Glasgow, G13 1HQ.

1. THE PARTIES

The Landlords are Gauld Properties Limited. The tenant is Miss C Rankin. She has been a tenant of the property for 32 years.

The tenancy is a registered tenancy in terms of the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984.

2. BACKGROUND

The current rent is £3350 per annum. The landlords applied for the rent to be increased to £4560. The Rent Officer registered a rent of £4000 per annum with effect from 1st June 2010. The Tenant referred the determination to the Private Rented Housing Panel ('PRHP').

3. THE INSPECTION

The committee inspected the property, which is a maisonette first and second floor flat in a five storey non traditional building, which dates from circa 1960. On the ground floor of the building there are shops and offices and maisonette flats are on the upper four floors. The maisonette flats are accessed from the front via a communal door and the rear via a communal stair and access walkway. The communal door entry control panel had been vandalised and was not working.

The accommodation comprises 3 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. There is a small balcony to the rear, accessed from a connecting door in the rear bedroom.

The bathroom fittings are the original fittings. The Tenant had installed a replacement kitchen sink. The kitchen units were original. The windows to the front of the property and the windows in the rear bedroom had been replaced with UPVC double glazed units. However the bathroom and kitchen windows were the original single glazed windows in metal and wood casings. The door to the balcony was also the original door.

The floor area of the property is approximately 63 square metres.

There is electric central heating in the property which was installed with the benefit of a grant provided to the Tenant by the Scottish Executive. The Tenant confirmed that the Landlords are responsible for maintaining the electric storage heaters.

There is a communal parking area at the rear of the tenement. The surface of the communal area is in a poor state of repair as there are many potholes. The bin storage area is located at the rear.

The property is conveniently situated for public transport and local services.

The rent includes the cleaning of the communal stair on a weekly basis. No receipts were provided by the Landlords for the cost of this service, which is believed to amount to less than 5% of the rent.

4. THE HEARING

No hearing was requested.

5. THE DECISION

The committee had the following documents before them:-

- A copy of form RR1, the Landlords' application for registration of the rent.
- Written Representations from the Tenant, and also the neighbouring tenants Mr M Taylor (Flat J), C Smith (Flat H) and J Wallace (Flat E), which stated:

'In this current economic climate, we feel that an increase of 20% is extremely excessive and unfair.

Furthermore, this increase took effect within 3 days of receipt of notification.

We have many ongoing issues with the landlord regarding repairs and maintenance of this property.

This includes ingress of water, severe dampness, mould and mildew spores which are known to cause ill health problems. Many window frames are rotting and doors are ill fitting.

Due to a lack of response from the landlord, many repairs and improvements are reluctantly carried out at the tenants' expense, although tenants are only liable for internal decoration and maintenance of glass.

Lack of general maintenance of the fabric of the building resulting in slum like external appearance; the last maintenance programme having been carried out more than 25 years ago.'

- Written representations from the Tenant which advised that she has been waiting for 30 years for new back windows in the property.
- List of comparable rents, provided by the clerk:-

Address	Accommodation	Description	Effective date	Registered Rent
3/1, 40 Apsley Street, Glasgow, G11 7SW	1 room, kitchen and bathroom. 52 sq.m	Third Floor tenement flat	31 st August 2009	£3150
2/R, 2 Kennoway Drive, Glasgow, G11 7UB	1 room, living kitchen and bathroom.	Second Floor tenement flat	29 th October 2009	£3200
Main Door, 93 Turnberry Road, Glasgow, G11 5AS	5 apartments, internal kitchen and bathroom. Approximate floor area 120 sq m	Basement flat in 3 storey and basement grey sandstone tenement built circa 1880	5 th March 2010	£6800

The committee considered the documents provided. Separately the committee had obtained details of a number of other similar sized properties available to lease in the area, from newspaper advertisements and the internet. The rents of these properties ranged from £ 450 to £ 625 per month. These properties were two bedroom properties and were flats in traditional tenements. They were improved properties with double glazing and central heating. They had modern bathrooms and kitchens and were provided with carpets, curtains and appliances. Also the properties at the higher end of the range were furnished.

The committee considered this evidence and reflected that the property Flat G 1/7, 1618 Great Western Road, Glasgow was a non traditional maisonette flat with a significantly smaller floor area than two bedroom flats in traditional tenements. Also the property was only partially double glazed. The bathroom fittings were original. The Tenant had upgraded the Kitchen sink at her own expense and the kitchen units were original.

Therefore they decided that the market rent of an improved property comparable to Flat G 1/7, 1618 Great Western Road, Glasgow was £ 450 per month (£5400 per annum). The committee acknowledged that an adjustment was required to reflect the fact that the property (Flat G 1/7, 1618 Great Western Road, Glasgow) was unfurnished, it did not have updated bathroom fittings, the

kitchen units were original and the tenant had provided the replacement kitchen sink. Also the property was only partially double glazed and no decoration, floor coverings or appliances were supplied by the landlords. It was acknowledged that the electric central heating had been installed in the property with the benefit of a grant provided to the Tenant however the committee agreed that as the Landlords are responsible for the maintenance of the central heating the presence of the central heating in the property should be taken into account in determining the rent.

They considered that a deduction of £102.08 per month (£1225) was reasonable to reflect these factors.

The committee were mindful of the terms of section 48(1) of The Rent (Scotland) Act 1984, which requires the committee 'to have regard to all of the circumstances (other than personal circumstances) and in particular to apply their knowledge and experience of current rents of comparable property in the area, as well as having regard to the age, character and locality of the dwelling house in question and to its state of repair and, if any furniture is provided for use under the tenancy, and to the quantity, quality and condition of the furniture'. Also section 48(2) which requires them to 'assume that the number of persons seeking to become tenants of similar dwelling- houses in the locality on the terms (other than those relating to rent) of the regulated tenancy is not substantially greater than the number of such dwelling- houses which are available to let on such terms.'

The committee acknowledged that there is a plentiful supply of similar properties to rent in the area and therefore there is no scarcity of supply of such properties at this time.

After consideration of all these factors the committee decided that the fair rent for the property was £4175 per annum.

In reaching this decision the committee have had regard to all the considerations required to be taken into account in terms of Section 48 of the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984.

This decision takes effect from the 8th day of September Two thousand and ten.

..... **J Taylor**

Chairperson, 14th September 2010