



# Housing Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 50

### PART I

#### RENTED ACCOMMODATION

### CHAPTER II

#### ASSURED SHORTHOLD TENANCIES

#### [<sup>F1</sup>19A Assured shorthold tenancies: post-Housing Act 1996 tenancies.]

An assured tenancy which—

- (a) is entered into on or after the day on which section 96 of the Housing Act 1996 comes into force (otherwise than pursuant to a contract made before that day), or
- (b) comes into being by virtue of section 5 above on the coming to an end of an assured tenancy within paragraph (a) above,

is an assured shorthold tenancy unless it falls within any paragraph in Schedule 2A to this Act.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 19A inserted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 96(1); S.I. 1997/225, art. 2 (with Sch.)

#### [<sup>F2</sup>20 Assured shorthold tenancies: pre-Housing Act 1996 tenancies.]

- (1) Subject to subsection (3) below, an assured tenancy which is not one to which section 19A above applies is an assured shorthold tenancy if—
- (a) it is a fixed term tenancy granted for a term certain of not less than six months,
  - (b) there is no power for the landlord to determine the tenancy at any time earlier than six months from the beginning of the tenancy; and

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- (c) a notice in respect of it is served as mentioned in subsection (2) below.]
- (2) The notice referred to in subsection (1)(c) above is one which—
- (a) is in such form as may be prescribed;
  - (b) is served before the assured tenancy is entered into;
  - (c) is served by the person who is to be the landlord under the assured tenancy on the person who is to be the tenant under that tenancy; and
  - (d) states that the assured tenancy to which it relates is to be a shorthold tenancy.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1) above, where—
- (a) immediately before a tenancy (in this subsection referred to as “the new tenancy”) is granted, the person to whom it is granted or, as the case may be, at least one of the persons to whom it is granted was a tenant under an assured tenancy which was not a shorthold tenancy, and
  - (b) the new tenancy is granted by the person who, immediately before the beginning of the tenancy, was the landlord under the assured tenancy referred to in paragraph (a) above,
- the new tenancy cannot be an assured shorthold tenancy.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5) below, if, on the coming to an end of an assured shorthold tenancy (including a tenancy which was an assured shorthold but ceased to be assured before it came to an end), a new tenancy of the same or substantially the same premises comes into being under which the landlord and the tenant are the same as at the coming to an end of the earlier tenancy, then, if and so long as the new tenancy is an assured tenancy, it shall be an assured shorthold tenancy, whether or not it fulfils the conditions in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) above.
- (5) Subsection (4) above does not apply if, before the new tenancy is entered into (or, in the case of a statutory periodic tenancy, takes effect in possession), the landlord serves notice on the tenant that the new tenancy is not to be a shorthold tenancy.
- [<sup>F3</sup>(5A) Subsections (3) and (4) above do not apply where the new tenancy is one to which section 19A above applies]
- (6) In the case of joint landlords—
- (a) the reference in subsection (2)(c) above to the person who is to be the landlord is a reference to at least one of the persons who are to be joint landlords; and
  - (b) the reference in subsection (5) above to the landlord is a reference to at least one of the joint landlords.
- <sup>F4</sup>(7) .....

#### Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 20(1) and side-note substituted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 104, **Sch. 8 para. 2(3)**; S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (with **Sch.**)
- F3** S. 20(5A) inserted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 104, **Sch. 8 para. 2(4)**; S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (with **Sch.**)
- F4** S. 20(7) repealed (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 227, **Sch. 19 Pt. IV**; S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (with **Sch.**)

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**[<sup>F5</sup>20A Post-Housing Act 1996 tenancies: duty of landlord to provide statement as to terms of tenancy.**

- (1) Subject to subsection (3) below, a tenant under an assured shorthold tenancy to which section 19A above applies may, by notice in writing, require the landlord under that tenancy to provide him with a written statement of any term of the tenancy which—
  - (a) falls within subsection (2) below, and
  - (b) is not evidenced in writing.
- (2) The following terms of a tenancy fall within this subsection, namely—
  - (a) the date on which the tenancy began or, if it is a statutory periodic tenancy or a tenancy to which section 39(7) below applies, the date on which the tenancy came into being,
  - (b) the rent payable under the tenancy and the dates on which that rent is payable,
  - (c) any term providing for a review of the rent payable under the tenancy, and
  - (d) in the case of a fixed term tenancy, the length of the fixed term.
- (3) No notice may be given under subsection (1) above in relation to a term of the tenancy if—
  - (a) the landlord under the tenancy has provided a statement of that term in response to an earlier notice under that subsection given by the tenant under the tenancy, and
  - (b) the term has not been varied since the provision of the statement referred to in paragraph (a) above.
- (4) A landlord who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a notice under subsection (1) above within the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which he received the notice is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (5) A statement provided for the purposes of subsection (1) above shall not be regarded as conclusive evidence of what was agreed by the parties to the tenancy in question.
- (6) Where—
  - (a) a term of a statutory periodic tenancy is one which has effect by virtue of section 5(3)(e) above, or
  - (b) a term of a tenancy to which subsection (7) of section 39 below applies is one which has effect by virtue of subsection (6)(e) of that section,subsection (1) above shall have effect in relation to it as if paragraph (b) related to the term of the tenancy from which it derives.
- (7) In subsections (1) and (3) above—
  - (a) references to the tenant under the tenancy shall, in the case of joint tenants, be taken to be references to any of the tenants, and
  - (b) references to the landlord under the tenancy shall, in the case of joint landlords, be taken to be references to any of the landlords.]

**Textual Amendments**

**F5** S. 20A inserted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 97; S.I. 1997/225, art. 2 (with Sch.)

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## **[<sup>F6</sup>20B Demoted assured shorthold tenancies**

- (1) An assured tenancy is an assured shorthold tenancy to which this section applies (a demoted assured shorthold tenancy) if—
  - (a) the tenancy is created by virtue of an order of the court under section 82A of the Housing Act 1985 or section 6A of this Act (a demotion order), and
  - (b) the landlord is [<sup>F7</sup>a private registered provider of social housing or] a registered social landlord.
- (2) At the end of the period of one year starting with the day when the demotion order takes effect a demoted assured shorthold tenancy ceases to be an assured shorthold tenancy unless subsection (3) applies [<sup>F8</sup>, but see section 20C].
- (3) This subsection applies if before the end of the period mentioned in subsection (2) the landlord gives notice of proceedings for possession of the dwelling house.
- (4) If subsection (3) applies the tenancy continues to be a demoted assured shorthold tenancy until the end of the period mentioned in subsection (2) or (if later) until one of the following occurs—
  - (a) the notice of proceedings for possession is withdrawn;
  - (b) the proceedings are determined in favour of the tenant;
  - (c) the period of six months beginning with the date on which the notice is given ends and no proceedings for possession have been brought.
- (5) Registered social landlord has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.]

### **Textual Amendments**

- F6** S. 20B inserted (30.6.2004 for E. and 30.4.2005 for W.) by [Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 \(c. 38\)](#), [ss. 15, 93](#); [S.I. 2004/1502](#), [art. 2\(a\)\(iv\)](#) (with savings in [Sch.](#)); [S.I. 2005/1225](#), [art. 2\(c\)](#)
- F7** Words in s. 20B(1) inserted (1.4.2010) by [The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/866\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 65](#) (with [art. 6](#), [Sch. 3](#))
- F8** Words in s. 20B(2) inserted (1.4.2012) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), [ss. 163\(1\)](#), [240\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2012/628](#), [art. 6\(c\)](#) (with [arts. 911141517](#))

## **[<sup>F9</sup>20C Assured shorthold tenancies following demoted tenancies**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
  - (a) section 20B applies to an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England (“the demoted tenancy”),
  - (b) the landlord is a private registered provider of social housing,
  - (c) the demoted tenancy was created by an order under section 6A made after the coming into force of section 163(2) of the Localism Act 2011,
  - (d) the assured tenancy that was terminated by that order was an assured shorthold tenancy that, whether or not it was a fixed term tenancy when terminated by the order, was granted for a term certain of not less than two years,
  - (e) apart from subsection (2), the demoted tenancy would cease to be an assured shorthold tenancy by virtue of section 20B(2) or (4), and
  - (f) the landlord has served a notice within subsection (3) on the tenant before the demoted tenancy ceases to be an assured shorthold tenancy by virtue of section 20B(2) or (4).

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- (2) The demoted tenancy does not cease to be an assured shorthold tenancy by virtue of section 20B(2) or (4), and at the time when it would otherwise cease to be an assured shorthold tenancy by virtue of section 20B(2) to (4)—
  - (a) it becomes an assured shorthold tenancy which is a fixed term tenancy for a term certain, and
  - (b) section 20B ceases to apply to it.
- (3) The notice must—
  - (a) state that, on ceasing to be a demoted assured shorthold tenancy, the tenancy will become an assured shorthold tenancy which is a fixed term tenancy for a term certain of the length specified in the notice,
  - (b) specify a period of at least two years as the length of the term of the tenancy, and
  - (c) set out the other express terms of the tenancy.
- (4) Where an assured shorthold tenancy becomes a fixed term tenancy by virtue of subsection (2)—
  - (a) the length of its term is that specified in the notice under subsection (3), and
  - (b) its other express terms are those set out in the notice.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F9** S. 20C inserted (1.4.2012) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 163(2)**, 240(2); S.I. 2012/628, art. 6(c) (with arts. 911141517)

#### [<sup>F10</sup>20D Assured shorthold tenancies following family intervention tenancies

- (1) An assured tenancy that arises by virtue of a notice under paragraph 12ZA(2) of Schedule 1 in respect of a family intervention tenancy is an assured shorthold tenancy if—
  - (a) the landlord under the assured tenancy is a private registered provider of social housing,
  - (b) the dwelling-house is in England,
  - (c) the family intervention tenancy was granted to a person on the coming to an end of an assured shorthold tenancy under which the person was a tenant, and
  - (d) the notice states that the family intervention tenancy is to be regarded as an assured shorthold tenancy.
- (2) This section does not apply if the family intervention tenancy was granted before the coming into force of section 163(3) of the Localism Act 2011.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F10** S. 20D inserted (1.4.2012) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 163(3)**, 240(2); S.I. 2012/628, art. 6(c) (with arts. 911141517)

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## **21 Recovery of possession on expiry or termination of assured shorthold tenancy.**

(1) Without prejudice to any right of the landlord under an assured shorthold tenancy to recover possession of the dwelling-house let on the tenancy in accordance with Chapter I above, on or after the coming to an end of an assured shorthold tenancy which was a fixed term tenancy, a court shall make an order for possession of the dwelling-house if it is satisfied—

- (a) that the assured shorthold tenancy has come to an end and no further assured tenancy (whether shorthold or not) is for the time being in existence, other than <sup>F11</sup>an assured shorthold periodic tenancy (whether statutory or not)]; and
- (b) the landlord or, in the case of joint landlords, at least one of them has given to the tenant not less than <sup>F12</sup>‘two months’][<sup>F12</sup>‘three months’ in relation to a dwelling-house in England and six months’ in relation to a dwelling-house in Wales] notice <sup>F13</sup>[in writing] stating that he requires possession of the dwelling-house.

<sup>F14</sup>(1A) Subsection (1B) applies to an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England if—

- (a) it is a fixed term tenancy for a term certain of not less than two years, and
- (b) the landlord is a private registered provider of social housing.

(1B) The court may not make an order for possession of the dwelling-house let on the tenancy unless the landlord has given to the tenant not less than six months' notice in writing—

- (a) stating that the landlord does not propose to grant another tenancy on the expiry of the fixed term tenancy, and
- (b) informing the tenant of how to obtain help or advice about the notice and, in particular, of any obligation of the landlord to provide help or advice.]

(2) A notice under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) above may be given before or on the day on which the tenancy comes to an end; and that subsection shall have effect notwithstanding that on the coming to an end of the fixed term tenancy a statutory periodic tenancy arises.

(3) Where a court makes an order for possession of a dwelling-house by virtue of subsection (1) above, any statutory periodic tenancy which has arisen on the coming to an end of the assured shorthold tenancy shall end (without further notice and regardless of the period) <sup>F15</sup>[in accordance with section 5(1A)].

(4) Without prejudice to any such right as is referred to in subsection (1) above, a court shall make an order for possession of a dwelling-house let on an assured shorthold tenancy which is a periodic tenancy if the court is satisfied—

- (a) that the landlord or, in the case of joint landlords, at least one of them has given to the tenant a notice <sup>F16</sup>[in writing] stating that, after a date specified in the notice, being the last day of a period of the tenancy and not earlier than <sup>F17</sup>‘two months’][<sup>F17</sup>‘three months’ in relation to a dwelling-house in England and six months in relation to a dwelling-house in Wales] after the date the notice was given, possession of the dwelling-house is required by virtue of this section; and
- (b) that the date specified in the notice under paragraph (a) above is not earlier than the earliest day on which, apart from section 5(1) above, the tenancy could be brought to an end by a notice to quit given by the landlord on the same date as the notice under paragraph (a) above.

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[<sup>F18</sup>(4ZA) In the case of a dwelling-house in England, subsection (4)(a) above has effect with the omission of the requirement for the date specified in the notice to be the last day of a period of the tenancy.]

[<sup>F19</sup>(4A) Where a court makes an order for possession of a dwelling-house by virtue of subsection (4) above, the assured shorthold tenancy shall end in accordance with section 5(1A).]

[<sup>F20</sup>(4B) A notice under subsection (1) or (4) may not be given in relation to an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England—

- (a) in the case of a tenancy which is not a replacement tenancy, within the period of four months beginning with the day on which the tenancy began, and
- (b) in the case of a replacement tenancy, within the period of four months beginning with the day on which the original tenancy began.

(4C) Subsection (4B) does not apply where the tenancy has arisen due to section 5(2).

(4D) Subject to subsection (4E), proceedings for an order for possession under this section in relation to a dwelling-house in England may not be begun after the end of the period of six months beginning with the date on which the notice was given under subsection (1) or (4).

(4E) Where—

- (a) a notice under subsection (4) has been given in relation to a dwelling-house in England, and
- (b) paragraph (b) of that subsection requires the date specified in the notice to be more than [<sup>F21</sup>two months][<sup>F21</sup>three months] after the date the notice was given,

proceedings for an order for possession under this section may not be begun after the end of the period of four months beginning with the date specified in the notice.]

[<sup>F22</sup>(5) Where an order for possession under subsection (1) or (4) above is made in relation to a dwelling-house let on a tenancy to which section 19A above applies, the order may not be made so as to take effect earlier than—

- (a) in the case of a tenancy which is not a replacement tenancy, six months after the beginning of the tenancy, and
- (b) in the case of a replacement tenancy, six months after the beginning of the original tenancy.

[ Subsection (5) above does not apply to an assured shorthold tenancy to which <sup>F23</sup>(5A) section 20B (demoted assured shorthold tenancies) applies.]

(6) In [<sup>F24</sup>subsections (4B)(b) and] (5)(b) above, the reference to the original tenancy is—

- (a) where the replacement tenancy came into being on the coming to an end of a tenancy which was not a replacement tenancy, to the immediately preceding tenancy, and
- (b) where there have been successive replacement tenancies, to the tenancy immediately preceding the first in the succession of replacement tenancies.

(7) For the purposes of this section, a replacement tenancy is a tenancy—

- (a) which comes into being on the coming to an end of an assured shorthold tenancy, and
- (b) under which, on its coming into being—

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- (i) the landlord and tenant are the same as under the earlier tenancy as at its coming to an end, and
- (ii) the premises let are the same or substantially the same as those let under the earlier tenancy as at that time.]

[<sup>F25</sup>(8) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument prescribe the form of a notice under subsection (1) or (4) given in relation to an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England.

(9) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under subsection (8) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

### Textual Amendments

- F11** Words inserted by [Local Government and Housing Act 1989 \(c. 42, SIF 75:1\)](#), s. 194, **Sch. 11 para. 103**
- F12** Words in s. 21(1)(b) substituted (temp.) (26.3.2020) by virtue of [Coronavirus Act 2020 \(c. 7\)](#), s. 87(1), **Sch. 29 paras. 1, 7(a)** (with [ss. 88-90](#)) (as amended (W.) (24.7.2020) by [The Coronavirus Act 2020 \(Assured Tenancies and Assured Shorthold Tenancies, Extension of Notice Periods\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/778\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(3)(a)**)
- F13** Words in s. 21(1)(b) inserted (28.2.1997) by [1996 c. 52, s. 98\(2\)](#); S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (subject to saving in [Sch. para. 2](#))
- F14** S. 21(1A)(1B) inserted (1.4.2012) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 164(1), 240(2)** (with s. 164(2)); S.I. 2012/628, **art. 6(c)** (with [arts. 911141517](#))
- F15** Words in s. 21(3) substituted (20.5.2009) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), [ss. 299, 325](#), **Sch. 11 para. 9(2)** (with [Sch. 11 para. 14](#)); S.I. 2009/1261, [arts. 2, 3](#)
- F16** Words in s. 21(4)(a) inserted (28.2.1997) by [1996 c. 52, s. 98\(3\)](#); S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (subject to saving [Sch. para. 2](#))
- F17** Words in s. 21(4)(a) substituted (temp.) (26.3.2020) by virtue of [Coronavirus Act 2020 \(c. 7\)](#), s. 87(1), **Sch. 29 paras. 1, 7(b)** (with [ss. 88-90](#)) (as amended (W.) (24.7.2020) by [The Coronavirus Act 2020 \(Assured Tenancies and Assured Shorthold Tenancies, Extension of Notice Periods\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/778\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(3)(b)**)
- F18** S. 21(4ZA) inserted (1.10.2015) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 35, 115(7)** (with s. 41); S.I. 2015/994, **art. 11(i)**
- F19** S. 21(4A) inserted (20.5.2009) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), [ss. 299, 325](#), **Sch. 11 para. 9(3)** (with [Sch. 11 para. 14](#)); S.I. 2009/1261, [arts. 2, 3](#)
- F20** S. 21(4B)-(4E) inserted (1.10.2015) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 36(2), 115(7)** (with s. 41); S.I. 2015/994, **art. 11(j)**
- F21** Words in s. 21(4E)(b) substituted (temp.) (26.3.2020) by virtue of [Coronavirus Act 2020 \(c. 7\)](#), s. 87(1), **Sch. 29 paras. 1, 7(c)** (with [ss. 88-90](#))
- F22** S. 21(5)-(7) inserted (28.2.1997) by [1996 c. 52, s. 99](#); S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (with [Sch.](#))
- F23** S. 21(5A) inserted (30.6.2004 for E. and 30.4.2005 for W.) by [Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 \(c. 38\)](#), **ss. 15(2), 93**; S.I. 2004/1502, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (with savings in [Sch.](#)); S.I. 2005/1225, **art. 2(c)**
- F24** Words in s. 21(6) substituted (1.10.2015) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 36(3), 115(7)** (with s. 41); S.I. 2015/994, **art. 11(j)**
- F25** S. 21(8)(9) inserted (1.7.2015) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 37, 115(7)** (with s. 41); S.I. 2015/994, **art. 10(a)**



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## [<sup>F26</sup>21A Compliance with prescribed legal requirements

- (1) A notice under subsection (1) or (4) of section 21 may not be given in relation to an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England at a time when the landlord is in breach of a prescribed requirement.
- (2) The requirements that may be prescribed are requirements imposed on landlords by any enactment and which relate to—
  - (a) the condition of dwelling-houses or their common parts,
  - (b) the health and safety of occupiers of dwelling-houses, or
  - (c) the energy performance of dwelling-houses.
- (3) In subsection (2) “enactment” includes an enactment contained in subordinate legislation within the meaning of the Interpretation Act 1978.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (2)(a) “common parts” has the same meaning as in Ground 13 in Part 2 of Schedule 2.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

### Textual Amendments

**F26** S. 21A inserted (1.7.2015 for specified purposes, 1.10.2015 in so far as not already in force) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 38, 115(7)** (with s. 41); [S.I. 2015/994](#), arts. 10(b), 11(k)

## [<sup>F27</sup>21B Requirement for landlord to provide prescribed information

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations require information about the rights and responsibilities of a landlord and a tenant under an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England (or any related matters) to be given by a landlord under such a tenancy, or a person acting on behalf of such a landlord, to the tenant under such a tenancy.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may—
  - (a) require the information to be given in the form of a document produced by the Secretary of State or another person,
  - (b) provide that the document to be given is the version that has effect at the time the requirement applies, and
  - (c) specify cases where the requirement does not apply.
- (3) A notice under subsection (1) or (4) of section 21 may not be given in relation to an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England at a time when the landlord is in breach of a requirement imposed by regulations under subsection (1).
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under subsection (1) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

### Textual Amendments

**F27** S. 21B inserted (1.7.2015 for specified purposes, 1.10.2015 in so far as not already in force) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 39, 115(7)** (with s. 41); [S.I. 2015/994](#), arts. 10(c), 11(l)

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## [<sup>F28</sup>21C Repayment of rent where tenancy ends before end of a period

- (1) A tenant under an assured shorthold tenancy of a dwelling-house in England is entitled to a repayment of rent from the landlord where—
  - (a) as a result of the service of a notice under section 21 the tenancy is brought to an end before the end of a period of the tenancy,
  - (b) the tenant has paid rent in advance for that period, and
  - (c) the tenant was not in occupation of the dwelling-house for one or more whole days of that period.
- (2) The amount of repayment to which a tenant is entitled under subsection (1) is to be calculated in accordance with the following formula—
 
$$R \times D P$$
 where—
 

R is the rent paid for the final period;

D is the number of whole days of the final period for which the tenant was not in occupation of the dwelling-house; and

P is the number of whole days in that period.
- (3) If the repayment of rent described in subsections (1) and (2) has not been made when the court makes an order for possession under section 21, the court must order the landlord to repay the amount of rent to which the tenant is entitled.
- (4) Nothing in this section affects any other right of the tenant to a repayment of rent from the landlord.]

### Textual Amendments

**F28** S. 21C inserted (1.10.2015) by [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), ss. 40, 115(7) (with s. 41); S.I. 2015/994, art. 11(m)

## 22 Reference of excessive rents to [<sup>F29</sup>appropriate tribunal].

- (1) Subject to section 23 and subsection (2) below, the tenant under an assured shorthold tenancy <sup>F30</sup> . . . may make an application in the prescribed form to [<sup>F31</sup>the appropriate tribunal] for a determination of the rent which, in [<sup>F32</sup>the appropriate tribunal's] opinion, the landlord might reasonably be expected to obtain under the assured shorthold tenancy.
- (2) No application may be made under this section if—
  - (a) the rent payable under the tenancy is a rent previously determined under this section; <sup>F33</sup> . . .
  - [<sup>F34</sup>(aa) the tenancy is one to which section 19A above applies and more than six months have elapsed since the beginning of the tenancy or, in the case of a replacement tenancy, since the beginning of the original tenancy; or]
  - (b) the tenancy is an assured shorthold tenancy falling within subsection (4) of section 20 above (and, accordingly, is one in respect of which notice need not have been served as mentioned in subsection (2) of that section).

*Status: Point in time view as at 24/07/2020.*

*Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1988, chapter II is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (3) Where an application is made to [<sup>F35</sup>the appropriate tribunal] under subsection (1) above with respect to the rent under an assured shorthold tenancy, [<sup>F36</sup>the appropriate tribunal] shall not make such a determination as is referred to in that subsection unless they consider—
- (a) that there is a sufficient number of similar dwelling-houses in the locality let on assured tenancies (whether shorthold or not); and
  - (b) that the rent payable under the assured shorthold tenancy in question is significantly higher than the rent which the landlord might reasonably be expected to be able to obtain under the tenancy, having regard to the level of rents payable under the tenancies referred to in paragraph (a) above.
- (4) Where, on an application under this section, [<sup>F37</sup>the appropriate tribunal] make a determination of a rent for an assured shorthold tenancy—
- (a) the determination shall have effect from such date as [<sup>F38</sup>the appropriate tribunal] may direct, not being earlier than the date of the application;
  - (b) if, at any time on or after the determination takes effect, the rent which, apart from this paragraph, would be payable under the tenancy exceeds the rent so determined, the excess shall be irrecoverable from the tenant; and
  - (c) no notice may be served under section 13(2) above with respect to a tenancy of the dwelling-house in question until after the first anniversary of the date on which the determination takes effect.
- (5) Subsections (4), (5) and (8) of section 14 above apply in relation to a determination of rent under this section as they apply in relation to a determination under that section and, accordingly, where subsection (5) of that section applies, any reference in subsection (4)(b) above to rent is a reference to rent exclusive of the amount attributable to rates.

[<sup>F39</sup>(5A) Where—

- (a) an assured tenancy ceases to be an assured shorthold tenancy by virtue of falling within paragraph 2 of Schedule 2A to this Act, and
- (b) at the time when it so ceases to be an assured shorthold tenancy there is pending before [<sup>F40</sup>the appropriate tribunal] an application in relation to it under this section,

the fact that it so ceases to be an assured shorthold tenancy shall, in relation to that application, be disregarded for the purposes of this section.]

[<sup>F41</sup>(6) In subsection (2)(aa) above, the references to the original tenancy and to a replacement tenancy shall be construed in accordance with subsections (6) and (7) respectively of section 21 above.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F29** Words in s. 22 substituted (1.7.2013) by [The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1036\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 1 para. 86(a)** (with Sch. 3)
- F30** Words in s. 22(1) repealed (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, ss. 104, 227, Sch. 8 para. 2(5), **Sch. 19 Pt. IV**; S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2** (with Sch.)
- F31** Words in s. 22(1) substituted (1.7.2013) by [The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1036\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 1 para. 86(b)(i)** (with Sch. 3)
- F32** Words in s. 22(1) substituted (1.7.2013) by [The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1036\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 1 para. 86(b)(ii)** (with Sch. 3)
- F33** Word in s. 22(2)(a) repealed (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 227, **Sch. 19 Pt. IV**; S.I. 1997/225, **art. 2**

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- F34** S. 22(2)(aa) inserted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 100(2); S.I. 1997/225, art. 2 (with Sch.)
- F35** Words in s. 22(3) substituted (1.7.2013) by The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1036), art. 1, Sch. 1 para. 86(c)(i) (with Sch. 3)
- F36** Words in s. 22(3) substituted (1.7.2013) by The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1036), art. 1, Sch. 1 para. 86(c)(ii) (with Sch. 3)
- F37** Words in s. 22(4) substituted (1.7.2013) by The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1036), art. 1, Sch. 1 para. 86(d)(i) (with Sch. 3)
- F38** Words in s. 22(4) substituted (1.7.2013) by The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1036), art. 1, Sch. 1 para. 86(d)(ii) (with Sch. 3)
- F39** S. 22(5A) inserted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 104, Sch. 8 para. 2(6); S.I. 1997/225, art. 2 (with Sch.)
- F40** Words in s. 22(5A)(b) substituted (1.7.2013) by The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1036), art. 1, Sch. 1 para. 86(e) (with Sch. 3)
- F41** S. 22(6) inserted (28.2.1997) by 1996 c. 52, s. 100(3); S.I. 1997/225, art. 2 (with Sch.)

## 23 Termination of [<sup>F42</sup>tribunal's] functions.

- (1) If the Secretary of State by order made by statutory instrument so provides, section 22 above shall not apply in such cases or to tenancies of dwelling-houses in such areas or in such other circumstances as may be specified in the order.
- (2) An order under this section may contain such transitional, incidental and supplementary provisions as appear to the Secretary of State to be desirable.
- (3) No order shall be made under this section unless a draft of the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

### Textual Amendments

- F42** Words in s. 23 substituted (1.7.2013) by The Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1036), art. 1, Sch. 1 para. 87 (with Sch. 3)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 24/07/2020.

**Changes to legislation:**

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