

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, SCHEDULE 4. (See end of Document for details)*

## SCHEDULE 4

(introduced by section 129)

### APPLICATIONS FOR HMO LICENCES: PROCEDURE

#### *Content of application*

- 1 (1) An application for an HMO licence must be written in such form as the local authority may reasonably require.
- (2) Such an application must set out—
  - (a) the address of the living accommodation concerned,
  - (b) in the case of an application by an individual, the name and address of the applicant,
  - (c) in the case of an application by a body, the information set out in sub-paragraph (3),
  - (d) if the applicant wishes the HMO licence to authorise an agent to act for the applicant in relation to the occupation of the living accommodation—
    - (i) where the agent is an individual, the name and address of the agent, or
    - (ii) where the agent is a body, the information set out in sub-paragraph (3),
  - (e) any other information which the Scottish Ministers may by order require to be set out in such an application, and
  - (f) any other information which the local authority may reasonably require.
- (3) The information referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(c) and (d)(ii) is—
  - (a) the name of the body,
  - (b) the body's principal office, and
  - (c) the name and address of each of the directors, partners or other persons concerned in the management of the body.
- (4) The application must be—
  - (a) signed by or on behalf of the applicant, and
  - (b) accompanied by the application fee (see section 161).

#### **Commencement Information**

**II** Sch. 4 para. 1 in force at 31.8.2011 by S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3

#### *Notice of application*

- 2 (1) A “notice of HMO application” is a notice which—
  - (a) states that an application for an HMO licence has been made in respect of living accommodation,
  - (b) sets out the information described in paragraph 1(2) and (3) (excluding the information described in sub-paragraph (3)(c) of that provision),
  - (c) states the date of the notice,
  - (d) explains the procedure for making written representations about the application to the local authority.

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- (2) The applicant must cause a notice of HMO application to be displayed on or near to the living accommodation concerned for 21 days from the date on which the application is made.
- (3) The applicant must ensure that the notice of HMO application is designed and displayed so that it can be conveniently read by the public.
- (4) The removal, obscuring or defacement of a notice of HMO application does not affect compliance with sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) if the applicant—
  - (a) took reasonable steps to prevent (and did not cause) the removal, obscuring or defacement, and
  - (b) on becoming aware of such an event, replaced the notice.
- (5) An applicant who considers that sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) have been complied with must certify that fact to the local authority.
- (6) Where—
  - (a) a notice of HMO application is removed, obscured or defaced during the period for which it must be displayed, but
  - (b) the applicant considers that compliance with sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) is, because of sub-paragraph (4), unaffected,
 the certificate must state the relevant circumstances.
- (7) If the local authority is satisfied that sub-paragraph (2) or (3) has not been complied with in the manner certified by the applicant, it may require the applicant to cause a notice of HMO application to be displayed on or near the living accommodation concerned for 21 days from such date as the authority may specify.
- (8) Sub-paragraphs (3) to (7) apply in relation to a duty under sub-paragraph (7) as they apply in relation to a duty under sub-paragraph (2).
- (9) On receiving an application for an HMO licence, the local authority—
  - (a) must send a copy of the application to the chief officer of the [F1enforcing authority]<sup>F1</sup> authority and the chief constable, and
  - (b) may give a notice of HMO application in a newspaper circulating in its area.

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** Words in Sch. 4 para. 2(9)(a) substituted (1.10.2006) by [The Fire \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(Consequential Modifications and Savings\) Order 2006 \(S.S.I. 2006/475\)](#), art. 2(1), [Sch. 1 para. 17\(2\)\(3\)\(e\)](#)

**Commencement Information**

**I2** Sch. 4 para. 2 in force at 31.8.2011 by [S.S.I. 2010/159](#), art. 3

*Notices: exceptions*

- 3 (1) This paragraph applies where the local authority considers, on the submission of any applicant—
  - (a) that the applicant has been unable to comply with paragraph 2(2) or (3) because of a lack of necessary rights (of access or otherwise) despite having taken reasonable steps for the purposes of acquiring those rights, or
  - (b) that complying with paragraph 2(2) or (3) is likely to jeopardise—

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- (i) the safety or welfare of any persons, or
  - (ii) the security of any premises.
- (2) Where this paragraph applies the local authority must—
- (a) disapply paragraph 2(2) to (8) in relation to the application concerned by serving notice of the disapplication to the applicant, and
  - (b) serve, or require the applicant to serve, notice of HMO application on the occupiers of such premises in the vicinity of the living accommodation concerned as the authority thinks fit.
- (3) The local authority must give notice under paragraph 2(9)(b) where this paragraph applies because of sub-paragraph (1)(a) of this paragraph.
- (4) The local authority must not give notice under paragraph 2(9)(b) where this paragraph applies because of sub-paragraph (1)(b) of this paragraph.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may give directions to local authorities about circumstances in which authorities must consider that compliance with paragraph 2(2) or (3) is likely to jeopardise—
- (a) the safety or welfare of persons, or
  - (b) the security of premises.
- (6) Directions given under sub-paragraph 5 may be varied or revoked at any time.

**Commencement Information**

**I3** Sch. 4 para. 3 in force at 31.8.2011 by S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3

*Representations*

- 4 (1) A written representation about an application for an HMO licence is valid only if it—
- (a) sets out the name and address of the respondent,
  - (b) is signed by or on behalf of the respondent, and
  - (c) is made on or before the deadline for making written representations.
- (2) The deadline for making written representations is—
- (a) where one or more notices of HMO application has or have been—
    - (i) displayed in pursuance of paragraph 2(2) or (7), or
    - (ii) served under paragraph 2(9)(b) or 3(2)(b),the latest date specified in any such notice as the date by which written representations must be made, or
  - (b) where no such notice is given, the date which is 21 days after the date on which the application is made.

**Commencement Information**

**I4** Sch. 4 para. 4 in force at 31.8.2011 by S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3

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### *Inquiries*

- 5 (1) The local authority may make such inquiries about the application as the authority thinks fit.
- (2) The local authority must make a report of any matter arising from any such inquiries which the local authority considers relevant to the determination of the application.

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**Commencement Information**

**I5** [Sch. 4 para. 5](#) in force at 31.8.2011 by [S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3](#)

### *Applicant's opportunity to respond*

- 6 (1) The local authority must give the applicant a copy of—
- (a) any valid written representation,
  - (b) any late written representation which the authority intends to consider, and
  - (c) any report made under paragraph 5(2).
- (2) A copy representation or report given under sub-paragraph (1) must be accompanied by a notice specifying the period (of not less than 7 days from the date on which the notice is given) during which the applicant may give a written response to the local authority on any matter set out in the copy representation or report.

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**Commencement Information**

**I6** [Sch. 4 para. 6](#) in force at 31.8.2011 by [S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3](#)

### *Hearings*

- 7 (1) The local authority may decide to hear oral representations about the application.
- (2) If the local authority decides to hold such a hearing, it must invite—
- (a) the applicant,
  - (b) each respondent who has made a valid written representation or a late written representation which the authority intends to consider, and
  - (c) any other person it thinks fit,
- to make oral representations.
- (3) An invitation under sub-paragraph (1) must be given not less than 7 days before the proposed hearing.

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**Commencement Information**

**I7** [Sch. 4 para. 7](#) in force at 31.8.2011 by [S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3](#)

### *Consideration of application*

- 8 (1) Before determining an application for an HMO licence, the local authority must consider any—
- (a) valid written representations (unless withdrawn),

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- (b) reports made under paragraph 5(2),
  - (c) written responses given by the applicant in pursuance of paragraph 6(2) (within the period specified in that paragraph), and
  - (d) oral representations made in pursuance of paragraph 7.
- (2) The local authority must not consider any written representation which is invalidated by paragraph (a) or (b) of paragraph 4(1).
- (3) But the local authority may consider a late written representation if it is satisfied that it was reasonable for the respondent to make the representation after the deadline for doing so.

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**Commencement Information**

**I8** Sch. 4 para. 8 in force at 31.8.2011 by S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3

*Time limit for determining application*

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- (1) The local authority must decide whether to grant or refuse an application for an HMO licence within 12 months of it receiving the application.
  - (2) The period mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) may be extended by the sheriff, on summary application by the local authority, by such period as the sheriff thinks fit.
  - (3) The sheriff may not extend a period unless the local authority applies for the extension before the period expires.
  - (4) The applicant is entitled to be a party to any proceedings on such a summary application.
  - (5) The sheriff's decision on such an application is final.
  - (6) If the local authority does not determine an application for an HMO licence within the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) (or that period as extended), the authority is to be treated as having decided to grant the HMO licence unconditionally.
  - (7) Sub-paragraph (6) does not affect the local authority's power to vary or revoke an HMO licence granted in pursuance of that sub-paragraph.

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** Sch. 4 para. 9(2) power to disapply conferred (20.11.2014) by Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 14), ss. 20(2)(a)(iii), 104(3); S.S.I. 2014/264, art. 2, Sch.

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**Commencement Information**

**I9** Sch. 4 para. 9 in force at 31.8.2011 by S.S.I. 2010/159, art. 3

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