



2011 CHAPTER 22

Private tenancies

Fixed penalty for certain offences

8 After Article 68 of the Private Tenancies Order insert—

“Fixed penalty for certain offences

68A.—(1) This Article applies where on any occasion an authorised officer of a district council has reason to believe that a person (“P”) has committed—

- (a) an offence under Article 5B(10) or (11); or
- (b) an offence under Article 65A(4).

(2) The authorised officer may give P a notice in the prescribed form offering P the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.

(3) A fixed penalty payable under this Article is payable to the district council whose officer gave the notice.

- (4) Where P is given a notice under this Article in respect of an offence—
- (a) no proceedings may be instituted for that offence before the expiration of the period of 14 days, or such other period as may be specified in the notice, following the date of the notice; and
 - (b) P may not be convicted of that offence if P pays the fixed penalty before the expiration of that period.

(5) A notice under this Article must give such particulars of the circumstances alleged to constitute the offence as are necessary for giving reasonable information of the offence.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 8. (See end of Document for details)*

(6) A notice under this Article must also state—

- (a) the period during which, by virtue of paragraph (4), proceedings will not be taken for the offence;
- (b) the amount of the fixed penalty; and
- (c) the person to whom and the address at which the fixed penalty may be paid.

(7) The fixed penalty payable to a district council under this Article in respect of an offence under Article 5B(11) in relation to a tenancy deposit received or required by a landlord is an amount equal to three times the amount of that tenancy deposit.

(8) The fixed penalty payable to a district council under this Article in respect of an offence under Article 5B(10) or 65A(4) is an amount determined by the council, being an amount not exceeding one-fifth of the maximum fine payable on summary conviction of that offence.

(9) In any proceedings a certificate which—

- (a) purports to be signed on behalf of the clerk of the council, and
- (b) states that payment of a fixed penalty was or was not received by a date specified in the certificate,

is evidence of the facts stated.

(10) A district council may use amounts paid to it in pursuance of notices under this Article only for the purposes of its functions under this Order or such other of its functions as may be prescribed.

(11) In this Article “authorised officer”, in relation to a district council, means an officer of the council who is authorised in writing by the council for the purposes of this Article.”.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 8.