

RISE IN EVICTIONS CAUSES BACKLOG AT THE COURTS

A steep rise in the number of tenant evictions is causing a backlog at the courts, meaning it can take over two months just to get a hearing date.

Owing to the recession and increasing levels of redundancy and unemployment many tenants are unable to pay their rent, leaving many landlords unable to pay their mortgage.

According to research conducted by the National Landlords Association, 44 per cent of landlords experienced rental arrears between October 2008 and March 2009. However, only 50 per cent of landlords attempted to recover the loss of rent through the courts. Of those who did many reported waiting times of over three months before their case was even heard.

Richard Cox from HomeLet's in-house Legal & Claims Department said: "The courts are being swamped by possession claims and as a result the process for evictions is taking far longer.

"We have been advised by one London area court that it will take six weeks to process requests for eviction appointments and this is just to provide a date for the eviction. Every court is different but one is so busy that some of its possession hearings are being issued at another court to try to alleviate the backlog.

"While the eviction process is ongoing it's important to remember that the landlord is not receiving any rent. This could lead to financial hardship for many landlords, especially those who rely on the rent to meet their monthly mortgage repayments.

"Evicting a tenant through the courts can be an extremely stressful and time consuming process. But our property legal experts handle the entire eviction process from beginning to end on behalf of the landlord when they're covered by a HomeLet Rent Guarantee policy."

Notes

- HomeLet is the UK's largest tenant referencing, Rent Guarantee and specialist insurance provider for the lettings industry and offers landlords a wide range of products through its network of almost 5,500 letting agents across the UK.
- For more information about this press release please email marketing@homelet.co.uk