



NEWS RELEASE

Date:	May 10, 2013
Subject:	'Chequebook phobia' tops late rent "Bad Excuses" poll.

"I have a phobia about touching my chequebook" heads the list of bizarre reasons for late rent payments given to Scottish letting agents.

A father who died for the third time and a dog which eats rent money also made the list, gathered by The Letting Protection Service Scotland (The LPS Scotland).

The LPS Scotland spoke to 150 Scottish letting agents ahead of the final deadline for the protection of all tenancy deposits in Scotland – May 15, 2013.

All tenancy deposits which have been given to landlords or letting agents – including those taken before March 7, 2011 when deposit protection laws came into force in Scotland – have to be protected by May 15, 2013.

From May 15 the law will become completely retrospective, with no excuses for late protection of the deposit.

Other reasons given by Scottish tenants for late payment of rent included:

- "I need the cash for my Rangers season ticket"
- "My pet died and I have to pay the funeral costs"
- I had to pay "Bank Tax"

The LPS Scotland director Kevin Firth said: "There are certainly some entertaining answers there, but at the end of the day they are all just excuses – and excuses don't wash.

"The same can be said about deposit protection, there'll be no excuses for Scottish landlords and letting agents after May 15 – all deposits need to be protected by that date.

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"We are the most experienced custodial scheme provider in the UK, and we're happy to help - let us take care of it and leave the excuses to someone else."

The poll found that several tenants had family members who returned from the dead to become excuses again later on. Another common theme is other demands taking priority – such as the satellite TV bill!

The LPS Scotland's list of Top 10 answers are:

1. "I have a phobia about touching my chequebook"
2. "My father has died" (for the third time)
3. "A visiting dog ate my rent money"
4. "My pet died and I have to pay the funeral costs"
5. "I need the cash for my Rangers season ticket"
6. "It's Christmas and I've had to buy presents, so give me a break"
7. The tenant had to pay a "Bank Tax"
8. "I spent the money at the bookies"
9. "I'm saving to go on holiday"
10. "The money fell out of my pocket on the way to the bank"

The LPS Scotland polled letting agents between May 3 and May 9, 2013.

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About The LPS Scotland

The LPS Scotland launched on July 2nd 2012, following approval from the Scottish Government, to protect tenancy deposits on behalf of tenants, landlords and letting agents.

The service is free to use and run by [Computershare Investor Services PLC](http://www.computershare.co.uk), which also operates The DPS, the only UK-based custodial deposit protection scheme.

The LPS Scotland provides an impartial, fast, free and secure service both online and via paper. Online self-service allows deposit payment, transfers and repayments at any time. Help and advice is available via a dedicated call centre during office hours and extensive online support channels 24 hours a day. An Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) service helps to resolve any disputes quickly and without the need for court action.

<http://www.lettingprotectionscotland.com/>

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