
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2012 No. 373

**The Tenancy Deposit Schemes
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

PART 6

Dispute Resolution

Dispute resolution mechanism

32.—(1) The scheme administrator must refer all disputes to the dispute resolution mechanism, regardless of the value of the disputed amount, where:—

- (a) either the landlord or tenant requests the referral (although if the request is made by the landlord the referral shall be made only if the tenant consents to use of the dispute resolution mechanism); and
- (b) the scheme administrator is satisfied that attempts to resolve the dispute without recourse to the dispute resolution mechanism have been made and have not been successful.

(2) The procedures referred to in paragraph (1) must:—

- (a) specify the timescale within which a referral to the dispute resolution mechanism may be requested by the landlord or tenant; and
- (b) provide that where a dispute has been referred to the dispute resolution mechanism it may only be suspended or abandoned with the consent of both parties.