



Housing Act 1957

1957 CHAPTER 56

PART II

PROVISIONS FOR SECURING THE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND SANITARY CONDITION OF HOUSES

Unfit premises beyond repair at reasonable cost

16 Power of local authority to accept undertaking as to reconstruction or use of unfit house

- (1) Where a local authority, on consideration of an official representation, or a report from any of their officers, or other information in their possession, are satisfied that any house—
 - (a) is unfit for human habitation, and
 - (b) is not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit,they shall serve upon the person having control of the house, upon any other person who is an owner thereof, and, so far as it is reasonably practicable to ascertain such persons, upon every mortgagee thereof, notice of the time (being some time not less than twenty-one days after the service of the notice) and place at which the condition of the house and any offer with respect to the carrying out of works, or the future user of the house, which he may wish to submit will be considered by them.
- (2) Every person upon whom such a notice is served under subsection (1) of this section shall be entitled to be heard when the matter is so taken into consideration.
- (3) A person upon whom such a notice is served under subsection (1) of this section shall, if he intends to submit an offer with respect to the carrying out of works,—
 - (a) within twenty-one days from the date of the service of the notice upon him, serve upon the authority notice in writing of his intention to make such an offer, and
 - (b) within such reasonable period as the authority may allow, submit to them a list of the works which he offers to carry out.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

- (4) The local authority may if, after consultation with any owner or mortgagee, they think fit so to do, accept an undertaking from him, either that he will within a specified period carry out such works as will in the opinion of the authority render the house fit for human habitation, or that it shall not be used for human habitation until the authority, on being satisfied that it has been rendered fit for that purpose, cancel the undertaking.
- (5) Nothing in the Rent Acts shall prevent possession being obtained of any premises by any owner thereof in a case where an undertaking has been given under this section that those premises shall not be used for human habitation.
- (6) Any person who knowing that an undertaking has been given under this section that any premises shall not be used for certain purposes specified in the undertaking, uses those premises in contravention of the undertaking, or permits them to be so used, shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds and to a further fine of five pounds for every day, or part of a day, on which he so uses them, or permits them to be so used, after conviction.
- (7) In this section references to a house include references to a hut, tent, caravan or other temporary or moveable form of shelter which is used for human habitation and has been in the same inclosure for a period of two years next before action is taken under this Part of this Act.