



# Landlord and Tenant Act 1987

## 1987 CHAPTER 31

### PART V

#### MANAGEMENT OF LEASEHOLD PROPERTY

##### *Service charges*

#### **41 Amendments relating to service charges.**

- (1) Sections 18 to 30 of the 1985 Act (regulation of service charges payable by tenants) shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in Schedule 2 (which include amendments—
  - (a) extending the provisions of those sections to dwellings other than flats, and
  - (b) introducing certain additional limitations on service charges).
- (2) Sections 45 to 51 of the <sup>M1</sup>Housing Act 1985 (which are, so far as relating to dwellings let on long leases, superseded by sections 18 to 30 of the 1985 Act as amended by Schedule 2) shall cease to have effect in relation to dwellings so let.

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** S. 41(2) excluded by S.I. 1988/1283, art. 2, **Sch. para. 8**

#### **Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1985 c. 68.

#### **42 Service charge contributions to be held in trust.**

- (1) This section applies where the tenants of two or more dwellings may be required under the terms of their leases to contribute to the same costs by the payment of service charges; and in this section—

“the contributing tenants” means those tenants;

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“the payee” means the landlord or other person to whom any such charges are payable by those tenants under the terms of their leases;

“relevant service charges” means any such charges;

“service charge” has the meaning given by section 18(1) of the 1985 Act, except that it does not include a service charge payable by the tenant of a dwelling the rent of which is registered under Part IV of the <sup>M2</sup>Rent Act 1977, unless the amount registered is, in pursuance of section 71(4) of that Act, entered as a variable amount;

“tenant” does not include a tenant of an exempt landlord; and

“trust fund” means the fund, or (as the case may be) any of the funds, mentioned in subsection (2) below.

- (2) Any sums paid to the payee by the contributing tenants by way of relevant service charges, and any investments representing those sums, shall (together with any income accruing thereon) be held by the payee either as a single fund or, if he thinks fit, in two or more separate funds.
- (3) The payee shall hold any trust fund—
  - (a) on trust to defray costs incurred in connection with the matters for which the relevant service charges were payable (whether incurred by himself or by any other person), and
  - (b) subject to that, on trust for the persons who are the contributing tenants for the time being.
- (4) Subject to subsections (6) to (8), the contributing tenants shall be treated as entitled by virtue of subsection (3)(b) to such shares in the residue of any such fund as are proportionate to their respective liabilities to pay relevant service charges.
- (5) If the Secretary of State by order so provides, any sums standing to the credit of any trust fund may, instead of being invested in any other manner authorised by law, be invested in such manner as may be specified in the order; and any such order may contain such incidental, supplemental or transitional provisions as the Secretary of State considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (6) On the termination of the lease of a contributing tenant the tenant shall not be entitled to any part of any trust fund, and (except where subsection (7) applies) any part of any such fund which is attributable to relevant service charges paid under the lease shall accordingly continue to be held on the trusts referred to in subsection (3).
- (7) If after the termination of any such lease there are no longer any contributing tenants, any trust fund shall be dissolved as at the date of the termination of the lease, and any assets comprised in the fund immediately before its dissolution shall—
  - (a) if the payee is the landlord, be retained by him for his own use and benefit, and
  - (b) in any other case, be transferred to the landlord by the payee.
- (8) Subsections (4), (6) and (7) shall have effect in relation to a contributing tenant subject to any express terms of his lease which relate to the distribution, either before or (as the case may be) at the termination of the lease, of amounts attributable to relevant service charges paid under its terms (whether the lease was granted before or after the commencement of this section).
- (9) Subject to subsection (8), the provisions of this section shall prevail over the terms of any express or implied trust created by a lease so far as inconsistent with those

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provisions, other than an express trust so created before the commencement of this section.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C2** Ss. 42-42B modified (30.9.2003 for E., 30.3.2004 for W.) by [Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 181(1), [Sch. 7 para. 11](#); S.I. 2003/1986, art. 2(a); S.I. 2004/669, art. 2(a)

**Marginal Citations**

**M2** 1977 c. 42.

**[<sup>F1</sup>42A Service charge contributions to be held in designated account**

- (1) The payee must hold any sums standing to the credit of any trust fund in a designated account at a relevant financial institution.
- (2) An account is a designated account in relation to sums standing to the credit of a trust fund if—
  - (a) the relevant financial institution has been notified in writing that sums standing to the credit of the trust fund are to be (or are) held in it, and
  - (b) no other funds are held in the account,and the account is an account of a description specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (3) Any of the contributing tenants, or the sole contributing tenant, may by notice in writing require the payee—
  - (a) to afford him reasonable facilities for inspecting documents evidencing that subsection (1) is complied with and for taking copies of or extracts from them, or
  - (b) to take copies of or extracts from any such documents and either send them to him or afford him reasonable facilities for collecting them (as he specifies).
- (4) If the tenant is represented by a recognised tenants' association and he consents, the notice may be served by the secretary of the association instead of by the tenant (and in that case any requirement imposed by it is to afford reasonable facilities, or to send copies or extracts, to the secretary).
- (5) A notice under this section is duly served on the payee if it is served on—
  - (a) an agent of the payee named as such in the rent book or similar document, or
  - (b) the person who receives the rent on behalf of the payee;and a person on whom such a notice is so served must forward it as soon as may be to the payee.
- (6) The payee must comply with a requirement imposed by a notice under this section within the period of twenty-one days beginning with the day on which he receives the notice.
- (7) To the extent that a notice under this section requires the payee to afford facilities for inspecting documents—
  - (a) he must do so free of charge, but
  - (b) he may treat as part of his costs of management any costs incurred by him in doing so.

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- (8) The payee may make a reasonable charge for doing anything else in compliance with a requirement imposed by a notice under this section.
- (9) Any of the contributing tenants, or the sole contributing tenant, may withhold payment of a service charge if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the payee has failed to comply with the duty imposed on him by subsection (1); and any provisions of his tenancy relating to non-payment or late payment of service charges do not have effect in relation to the period for which he so withholds it.
- (10) Nothing in this section applies to the payee if the circumstances are such as are specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (11) In this section—  
     “recognised tenants’ association” has the same meaning as in the 1985 Act,  
     and  
     “relevant financial institution” has the meaning given by regulations made  
     by the Secretary of State;  
 and expressions used both in section 42 and this section have the same meaning as in that section.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** Ss. 42A, 42B inserted (26.7.2002 for E. for specified purposes, 1.1.2003 for W. for specified purposes and otherwise prosp.) by [Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 156(1); S.I. 2002/1912, art. 2(c) (subject to [Sch. 2](#)); S.I. 2002/3012, art. 2(c) (subject to [Sch. 2](#))

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

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### **42B Failure to comply with section 42A**

- (1) If a person fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a duty imposed on him by or by virtue of section 42A he commits an offence.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (3) Where an offence under this section committed by a body corporate is proved—  
     (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or a person purporting to act in such a capacity, or  
     (b) to be due to any neglect on the part of such an officer or person,  
 he, as well as the body corporate, is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (4) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (3) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.
- (5) Proceedings for an offence under this section may be brought by a local housing authority (within the meaning of section 1 of the Housing Act 1985 (c. 68)).]

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