

Renting Matters in Falkirk

2nd Edition



Welcome

to our 2nd edition of our Renting Matters in Falkirk.

Our 2nd edition looks a little different from our 1st edition - we are keen to share information with you in the most accessible format

Feedback from Landlord and Letting Agents Forum: 29/9/22

We would like to thank everyone who attended our second Landlord & Letting Agent virtual forum. From the feedback we received the general view of the attendees was that the forum was informative, engaging and helpful. We value your feedback and we would welcome any suggestions (whether you attended the forum or not) on what subjects/ areas you would like to see us cover at our next forum. We would be particularly interested in gathering feedback on whether you would rather attend future forums virtually or in person. Please e-mail any suggestions to: privatesector.housing@falkirk.gov.uk

Private Housing Webpages Article

Our private sector webpages contain a wide range of private sector housing information. This section highlights what is currently available and what will be appearing over the coming weeks.

What's new in the Private Sector highlights a new information and development as well as a range of key information.



Homeowners

Provides information to homeowners and includes Scheme of Assistance, Care and Repair Service, Small Repair Handyperson Service, Factoring, Buy Backs to Empty Homes. Some of these pages are relevant and also appear under our Landlords & Letting Agents and Private tenant's pages.



Private Tenants

Provides private renting related information for your tenants and includes our Renting Privately: what you should know page which provides information from Landlord Registration, the information that a Lettings Advert should contain as well as information on deposits, the Repairing Standard, where to get Housing and Energy Advice. Our Renting Privately: Financial and Practical Support and our Renting Privately: Rental Information - 2022/ Quarter 2 will also be listed.



Landlords & Letting Agents

Provides private renting relating information for you and includes information on landlord registration, renting advice, training & useful links, renting checklist – legal responsibilities, private sector leasing and Under one Roof. In addition, the following two new pages are in the process of being added:

- **Renting Privately: Financial and Practical Support**

Contains information and links which may help your tenants maximise their income by accessing support and help that they are entitled to.

- **Renting Privately: Rental Information - 2022/ Quarter 2 will also be listed.**

As part of our Local Housing Strategy data collection exercise, we collect information from advertised private lets. This helps us to better understand trends across Falkirk's Private Rented Sector and helps us ensure that adverts contain the correct information. We wanted to share some general information and have extracted average rents, number of lets by size, number of lets by property type as well as the number of lets covered by the Local Housing Allowance broken down by Housing Market Area.

This information will be updated quarterly: we hope you will find this information useful.



Local Housing Strategy

Provides a link to our current The Local Housing Strategy (LHS). This is the main strategic document for housing across Falkirk. It sets out our priorities and plans for delivery of housing and housing related services. It also links into other local authority strategic documents.

We are currently developing our new LHS to cover the period 2023 – 2028. Our main LHS survey closed at the end of October 2022. In relation to Private Sector Housing issues we have three short-life surveys which concentrate on:

Landlord and Letting Agent Survey
(open to Landlords and Letting Agents)

Private Sector Tenants Survey (open to Tenants living in Private Lets)

Scheme of Assistance Survey (open to Landlords, Private Sector Tenants and Homeowners)

Our surveys are open until Tuesday 31/1/23: please have your say and help us plan for housing across Falkirk over the next 5 years.

Please also share links to these surveys with your tenants: it gives them the opportunity to highlight areas of new information/ support that would assist them as well as feeding back on private rented sector in Falkirk

Received feedback will:

- help us better understand the different elements of private sector housing in Falkirk
- help us develop of our 2023- 2028 Local Housing Strategy (LHS), setting out our priorities and plans for delivery of housing and housing related services

In the near future we will be beginning the roll out of our Private Tenant Engagement Survey. The purpose of the survey is to provide tenants information on their renting rights in relation to property condition and for us to maintain our commitment to ensuring a high quality of housing within the private sector. This survey will also assist us in gathering data in the private rented sector for our Local Housing Strategy. We will initially target randomly selected postcode areas. Tenants will have the opportunity to advise us of information in relation to gas safety, electrical safety, smoke & heat detection as well as the overall the standard of their tenancy. We will keep our What's New web page updated as we roll out this survey and what areas of Falkirk we're targeting.



Landlords & Letting Agents Information

As it is a legal requirement for a property to be registered prior to advertising, agents can confirm any new properties which they are being asked to manage have been correctly registered by the Landlord. This can be done by checking the Public Search facility using the rental property postcode.

www.landlordregistrationscotland.gov.uk/search/start

Privacy Statement

The council must comply with Data Protection Legislation as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. If you supply personal information to us you can find out how we handle personal data at www.falkirk.gov.uk/privacy

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, LARGE PRINT or audio tape please contact the Private Sector Team.

If you have any queries regarding this newsletter, please contact the Private Sector Team:

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