

Mutual Exchange Policy & Procedures

Date Approved	Proposed Review Date
September 2009	September 2012
Chair Person/Office Bearers Signature:	

MUTUAL EXCHANGES

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 governs mutual exchanges and states that a landlord must not unreasonably refuse permission for the mutual exchange of a house. Details of how mutual exchanges will operate are contained within Cassiltoun Housing Association Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement.

A mutual exchange does not need to be with another of Cassiltoun Housing Association's tenants, but must be with another house where the tenant holds a Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement or a Short Scottish Secure tenancy Agreement.

Mutual exchange is a useful tool to ensuring the housing stock is used efficiently. However, care must be taken to ensure that no abuse of the system is taking place i.e. tenants must have a genuine desire to exchange. As a result, the reasons for wishing to exchange must be examined before any further steps are taken.

The Association will advertise Mutual Exchanges in the reception area and hold a register at the Reception desk. Anyone wishing can ask to see the register and can add their request to the book for advertising.

Exchanges are permitted if the following conditions are met:

- a) The tenants must have a genuine reason for wishing the exchange e.g. overcrowding/under-occupation.
- b) The rent accounts must both have been conducted satisfactorily and be clear at the time of exchange.
- c) The exchange will not normally result in either tenant over or under-occupying their accommodation. This will be assessed in line with the Allocation Policy.
- d) Applications for any Financial Grants will not be accepted in the first two years by the new tenant.

Exchanges will not normally be granted in the following circumstances:

- a) One of the properties is adapted for special needs and one of the proposed tenant's household does not have a need for a property with these facilities.
- b) Where a tenant has outstanding repair work due to tenant damage or neglect.
- c) Where the tenant owes monies for repair work carried out due to tenant damage or neglect.
- d) Where the tenancy has not been conducted in a satisfactory manner and/or who the Association has reason to believe would cause problems to neighbours or damage to Association property.
- e) If, in the Association's opinion, the property does not match the needs of the incoming household, for example, the household is deemed to require ground floor accommodation on medical grounds, but is seeking an exchange to a one-up property.
- f) The Association believes that the request results from a financial or other inducement offered by one party or from misrepresentation by one party or where the exchanges appears to be contrived to circumvent normal allocation process. In this regard

particular attention will be given to the motives of applicants wishing to make a mutual exchange which would worsen their circumstances.

The above sections are not intended to be exhaustive, therefore each request will be considered on their individual circumstances.

2. PROCEDURE

Exchange within the Housing Association

Where tenants give notice that they wish to exchange they will both be asked to complete an application form (appendix 1).

On receipt of completed forms, a member of the Housing Services Team will acknowledge receipt within 2 working days (appendix 2) and carry out the following:

- confirm the tenant's reasons for wishing to move.
- confirm the household sizes are compatible with the sizes of the relevant accommodation.
- check whether any properties have had medical adaptations and, if so, if they are compatible to exchanging tenants.
- check both rent accounts.
- check for any outstanding tenants charges.
- check the house files to ensure no breaches of tenancy have occurred.
- confirm the length of tenancies.

On completion of the above, a house visit will be carried out by the Housing Services Assistant and Housing Services Office to discuss the possibility of exchange and carry out an inspection of tenancy (appendix 3/3a).

- Where applicable, tenant will be advised of any repairs to be carried out within 2 working days of inspection (appendix 4).
- A follow up inspection will be carried out to ensure all repairs are completed to the Association's standards.
- Where applicable, the tenant will be advised of Right to Compensation (appendix 5).
- Exchanging tenants will be responsible for the costs of gas, electrical and joiner safety inspections and should be advised of this at the outset (appendix 6).
- Disconnection and reconnection of cookers, washing machines, etc, are the responsibility of exchanging tenants, therefore, tenants must be advised of the Association's Policy and likely costs involved (appendix 6)
- Meter readings are the responsibility of exchanging tenants, along with notifying appropriate suppliers.
- If, after all necessary checks are completed, the exchange is approved, tenant to be notified (appendix 7). If the exchange is not approved, tenants to be advised in writing, along with their Right of Appeal (appendix 7a) of the Association's decision and reasons for refusal.
- Date for exchange to be agreed with tenant(s) and time for keys to be returned confirmed (appendix 8).

- Housing Benefit to be notified of tenancy end (appendix 9).
- Tenant(s) to be advised of any rent payments due (appendix 10).
- Staff to record tenancy end/new tenancies through computer system.
- Staff to ensure all relevant paperwork completed and procedures for tenancy end and new tenancies followed.

3. <u>Mutual Exchanges involving other Landlords</u>

Exchanges will be permitted with tenants from:

- a) Scottish Homes
- b) District Councils
- c) Housing Associations/Co-ops
- d) New Towns

The procedures for exchange within the Association are the same as the above with the additional following points:

- Both tenants will fill in the application form for each Landlord.
- On receipt of the completed forms, Housing Staff carries out an initial check on Cassiltoun Housing Association's tenant and requests a report from the other Landlord (appendix 11). If neither applicant is rejected at the preliminary stages, house visits to both applicants will be carried out (appendix 3, for Cassiltoun Housing Association tenant and appendix 12 for other).
- On receipt of the tenancy report, the Housing Staff will confirm whether the exchange is likely to be acceptable to the Association and request similar confirmation from the other Landlord.

The Operations Sub Committee will be advised of all mutual exchanges whether they are internal or involve other Landlords.

FG/

Date as Postmark

Dear Sirs

MUTUAL EXCHANGE APPLICATION

I write to acknowledge receipt of your application for a mutual exchange.

This request has now been noted and is being dealt with by our staff, we will contact you again shortly to discuss this further.

In the meantime, if you wish to discuss your application, please contact me at the office.

If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
MUTUAL EXCHANGE
Further to your recent application to exchange tenancies, I write to confirm I will house visit your tenancy on to discuss this matter further.
I will be accompanied by our Team Leaders, who will carry out a maintenance inspection of your property.
If the above date or time is not suitable, please contact me immediately to arrange ar alternative.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and will arrange to have this done.
Yours sincerely
Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

VOID INSPECTION RECORD SHEET

Address:		
Address		
Void/Occupied:	 	
Property Type & Size: _	 	
Designated Officer:	 	
	DATE/ YES/NO	OFFICER/COMMEN

	DATE/ YES/NO	OFFICER/COMMENTS
Notice received		
Tenancy terminates		
Pre-void inspection date		
Tenant advised of outstanding work/repairs requiring finalising by end of tenancy		
Void inspection		
Electric/Gas check ordered		

Keys:

	Proposed Date	Actual Date
Sets of keys for Property		
Keys passed to Housing Officer – ready to let		

END OF TENANCY INSPECTION SHEET AND CHECKLIST

INSPECTING STAFF
NAME/S:
SIGNATURE/S:
DATE OF INSPECTION:
YES / NO

OUTGOING TENANT:	
FORWARDING ADDRESS:	
FORWARDING TEL.NO:	
TENANT RECHARGE?	YES/NO
DETAILS/ARRANGEMENT:	
GARDEN	YES/NO
CONDITION OF GARDEN:	
TYPE OF HEATING SYSTEM: _	
POWER CARD	YES/NO
METER READINGS: GAS	ELECTRIC
SMOKE DETECTOR:	YES/NO BATTERIES
HALL	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
DECORATION/PAINTWORK: _	CARPETS/FLOORING?
LOCKS:	SOCKETS/SWITCHES

LIVINGROOM	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
DECORATION/PAINTWORK:	SOCKETS/SWITCHES:
FIRE:	HEATERS
WALLS:	WINDOWS: GLAZING
CEILING:	HANDLES
CARPET/FLOORING:	LOCKS
LIGHT FITTINGS:	
BEDROOM 1	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
DECORATION/PAINTWORK:	SOCKETS/SWITCHES:
LIGHT FITTINGS:	HEATERS
WALLS:	WINDOWS: GLAZING
CEILING:	HANDLES
CARPET/FLOORING:	LOCKS
BEDROOM 2	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
DECORATION/PAINTWORK:	SOCKETS/SWITCHES:
LIGHT FITTINGS:	HEATERS
WALLS:	WINDOWS: GLAZING
CEILING:	HANDLES
CARPET/FLOORING:	LOCKS

BEDROOM 3	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
DECORATION/PAINTWORK:	SOCKETS/SWITCHES:
LIGHT FITTINGS:	HEATERS
WALLS:	WINDOWS: GLAZING
CEILING:	HANDLES
CARPET/FLOORING:	LOCKS
BEDROOM 4	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
DECORATION/PAINTWORK:	SOCKETS/SWITCHES:
LIGHT FITTINGS:	HEATERS
WALLS:	WINDOWS: GLAZING
CEILING:	HANDLES
CARPET/FLOORING:	LOCKS
BEDROOM 5	
CLEANLINESS:	DOOR HANDLES:
	SOCKETS/SWITCHES:
	HEATERS
	WINDOWS: GLAZING
	HANDLES
	LOCKS
C/((() E 1/1 EOO((())O.	

BATHROOM	
DECORATION/PAINTWORK	CLEANLINESS:
SOCKETS/SWITCHES:	WINDOWS: GLAZING :
CEILING:	HANDLES
BATH:	LOCKS
WC:	WHB
FLOORING:	LIGHT FITTINGS
KITCHEN	
GAS: ELECTRIC	
DECORATION/PAINTWORK:	FLOORING:
CLEANLINESS:	UNITS:
SOCKETS & SWITCHES:	WINDOWS: GLAZING
SINK:	HANDLES
CEILING:	LOCKS
LIGHT FITTINGS:	
W.C. ROOM/CLOAKROOM	
DECORATION/PAINTWORK	CLEANLINESS:
SOCKETS/SWITCHES:	WINDOWS: GLAZING :
CEILING:	HANDLES
BATH:	LOCKS
WC:	WHB
FLOORING:	LIGHT FITTINGS:

ARE THERE ANY IMPROVEMENTS THAT THE TENANT HAS MADE TO THE PROPERTY:?		
REPAIRS REQUIRED:		
REDECORATION REQUIRED:		
REDECORATION ALLOWANCE?VALUE:DATE ALLOCATED		
EXPECTED REPAIRS COMPLETION DATE:		
ANY OTHER COMMENTS:		
I agree all items identified above are correct.		
Tenant Signature: Cassiltoun H.A. Signature:		
Any other items identified when flat is vacated not listed above will be deemed as damaged by tenant which is an offence for which you are liable.		
SIGNATURE OF STAFF MEMBER FROM HST :		
DATE:		

DECLARATION

	_ agree that on accepting the tenancy at
Fully understand that the following ite	ems below i.e.
will be my responsibility throughout th	ne duration of my tenancy.
Signed:	······································
Witnessed:	
Dated:	

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
MUTUAL EXCHANGE
Further to the recent inspection carried out on, I write to confirm details of works which you are required to carry out prior to us being able to approve your mutual exchange:
1. 2. 3.
Please have this work completed by when I will reinspect your tenancy.
I trust the above is of assistance to you, but if you wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.
Yours sincerely

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
RIGHT TO COMPENSATION
Further to the recent inspection carried out at your tenancy, I have noted you may be entitled to payments under the Right to Compensation.
In order that we can discuss this further, I have made an appointment for you to see me on
If the above appointment is not convenient, please contact me at the office to arrange a suitable alternative.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and will arrange to have this done.
Yours sincerely
Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FG/

Date as postmark

Dear

MUTUAL EXCHANGE

Further to your recent application to exchange tenancies, I must advise that if this exchange is approved, it is necessary for safety inspections to be carried out by our Gas Engineer, Electrical Engineer and Joiner prior to the new tenant moving into your house and you will be responsible for all costs incurred to carry out these inspections.

I have attached the costs involved and would also advise you that you are also responsible for having any household appliances disconnected and pay for any costs involved. Your cooker must be disconnected by either a Corgi registered Gas Engineer or approved Electrician and appropriate certificates submitted to our office.

I trust the above is of assistance to you, but if you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me at the office.

If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FO/
FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
MUTUAL EXCHANGE
Further to your request to exchange tenancies to(address), write to confirm that all necessary checks have now been carried out and this exchange has been approved.
In order that I can confirm suitable dates for the removal, please contact me at the office immediately to discuss this.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy in large print, Braille or an alternative language, please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.
Yours sincerely
Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
MUTUAL EXCHANGE
Further to your request to exchange tenancies to
The reason(s) for this are as follows:
1. 2. 3.
If you do not agreed with this decision you can, in the first instance, contact myself. If you are still dissatisfied after this, you should appeal, in writing, to the Association's Chief Executive Officer. If this matter is not resolved by this stage you may appeal, in writing, to the Board of Management. Where, after following the above procedures, you still disagree with the decision taken, you may appeal to Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, 4 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7NS.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy in

large print, Braille or an alternative language, please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.

Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

Yours sincerely

I trust all of the above is of assistance to you.

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
Dear
MUTUAL EXCHANGE
Further to our recent discussion regarding the above, I write to confirm that your keys should be handed into our office on(date) by(time)
I trust this is of assistance to you.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.
Yours sincerely
Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FG/

Date as postmark

Housing Benefit Section 61 Dougrie Drive Castlemilk Glasgow G45

Dear Sirs

The undernoted tenant(s) have advised us they will be exchanging tenancies on __(date)__.

Name	Address	Housing Benefit Ref.	

I would be grateful if you could end housing benefit at the above address and advise me of any overpayments due to yourselves.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FG/
Date as postmark

Dear

MUTUAL EXCHANGE

As your request to exchange tenancies has now been approved, I write to confirm your date of moving is $__(date)__$. This means you will be due to pay $\pounds___$ to cover the rent due to this date.

Your payment should be made immediately to the Bank of Scotland in Rutherglen or to the Credit Union Office in Castlemilk Drive. Please confirm with me when payment has been made.

If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter, or require a copy in large print, Braille or an alternative language, please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.

I trust all of the above is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear Sirs
MUTUAL EXCHANGE APPLICATION
First Tenant:
Second Tenant:
I refer to the above tenants who have expressed an interest in exchanging.
I should be obliged if you would confirm that they have applied to you and complied with your procedures regarding Mutual Exchanges.
To enable us to consider their application, please complete the enclosed tenancy report detailing how they have conducted their tenancy, the length of their tenancy and the current situation regarding their rent account.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and I will arrange to have this done.
Yours faithfully
Fiona McGowan Head of Operations
Enc.

TENANCY REFEREN	ICE REQUEST – CASSILTOU	N HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD
Nama		
A alaba a a		
Current/ Former Landlord		
Date Tenancy Commenced _	/Date Tena	ncy Completed//
Household Details (Description	n Of Present/Former Residence):
Total Bedrooms		•
Family Details		
Name	Date of Birth	Relationship to Applicant
Rent £ Weekly/Mor	nthly No Housing Benefit/ F	ull Housing Benefit/ Partial Housing Benefit
Currently Rent Balance?		YES/ NO
Have Rent Payments Been Mad	de Regularly And On Time?	YES/ NO
Is Any Existing Balance Likely 7	o Be Cleared By Housing Bene	fit? YES/ NO
Has An Arrangement Been Mad	de To Clear The Arrears?	YES/ NO
How Long Has The Arrangemen	nt Been Running?	
Has It Been Kept?	-	YES/ NO
If "NO" Please Give Details:		
Has Legal Action Ever Been Ta	ken Against The Tenant For Re	nt Arrears? YES/ NO
If "YES" Please Give Details:		
-		
Has There Been Any Outstandi	ng Re-chargeable?	YES/ NO
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-	
Details Of Pets		
Condition Of Interior Of Property		
		Tenant? Has There Been Any History Of
Anti-Social Behaviour, Or Any C	Other Relevant Breach Of Tenar	ncy? YES/ NO
If 'YES' Please Give Details:		
Any other comments you may u	vish to make that could assist us	s in assessing the suitability of this
applicant: -		
SIGNATURE	DATE	
AUTHORITY		LTOUN REF
CONTACT INFORMATION		

FG/
Date as postmark
Dear
MUTUAL EXCHANGE
Further to your recent application to exchange tenancies, I write to confirm I will house visit your tenancy on(date and time) to discuss this matter further.
If the above date or time is not suitable, please contact me immediately to arrange ar alternative.
If you wish a further explanation of the details contained in this letter or require a copy on large print, Braille, or an alternative language please let me know and will arrange to have this done.
Yours sincerely
Fiona McGowan Head of Operations

STAFF CHECKLIST - MUTUAL EXCHANGE

Address 1:		
Address 2:		
		Date
Date applications received		
Acknowledgement sent	Yes / No	
If another Landlord is involved have you requested a tenancy reference?	Yes/No	
Confirmation of reasons for exchange	Yes / No	
Are household sizes compatible with accommodation?	Yes / No	
If 'no', provide comments		
Are any properties medically adapted?	Yes / No	
If 'yes', is this suitable to exchanging tenant		
Have you checked rent account?	Yes / No	
Any comments		
Have you checked for any outstanding tenant charges?	Yes / No	
Any comments		
Have you checked house files for any breach of tenancy?	Yes / No	
Any comments		
Have you arranged house visit?	Yes / No	

		Date
Has tenancy inspection sheet been completed and signed by tenant and staff?	Yes / No	
Has tenant been advised (within 2 days) of any repairs, redecoration, etc, they should carry out?	Yes / No	
Where appropriate, has follow up inspection been arranged?	Yes / No	
Where appropriate, have tenants been advised of Right to Compensation?	Yes / No	
Have tenants been notified of costs for gas, electrical and joiner safety inspection?	Yes / No	
Have tenants been advised of the Association's Policy and costs involved for disconnections/reconnections of cookers?	Yes / No	
Has mutual exchange been approved?	Yes / No	
Date tenants notified of this decision		
If exchange is not approved, has tenant been given right of appeal?	Yes / No	
If exchange has been approved, what date will exchange take place?		
Has tenant been advised what date and time to hand keys into office?	Yes / No	
Has tenant paid for all gas, electrical and joiner safety checks?	Yes / No	
Have you organised all safety checks?	Yes / No	
Gas Joiner		
If appropriate, have you notified housing benefit section of exchange?	Yes / No	
If appropriate, have tenants been advised of rent payments?	Yes / No	
Have you arranged to sign up new tenancies?	Yes / No	
Has all relevant paperwork for tenancy end been carried out?	Yes / No	
Housing Services Team		