Information for Applicants on the Rent Bond Scheme

What is the Rent Bond Scheme?

This Rent Bond Scheme is run by Hart District Council to support the development and sustainment of lasting tenancies for both landlords and tenants. The Council offers landlords and tenants a range of support services to help people who are living on a low wage or are receiving benefits to secure accommodation in the private sector. The scheme aims to support people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness by helping them find private rented accommodation.

Hart District Council will provide you with a Bond Guarantee of up to 6 weeks rent to help you secure accommodation in the private rented sector. Additional funding for one month's rent in advance may also be offered if you cannot find funding for this yourself. The Scheme does not provide funding for holding deposits or administration fees.

Who is eligible for the scheme?

The Rent Bond Scheme is only available to people who the Council have a legal duty to assist under the homelessness legislation.

How do I find out if I am eligible for the scheme?

In order to find out if you meet the criteria you must first make an appointment to have an interview with an Engagement and Support Officer at Hart District Council.

They will talk to you about your circumstances and what options may be available, and decide whether or not you are eligible.

To make an appointment to see an Engagement and Support Officer, please contact our Duty Engagement and Support Officer at the Civic Offices on 01252 774420.

Where will I find suitable accommodation?

The Housing Service works with a number of landlords and letting agents that will assist people through the Rent Bond Scheme and/or will accept Local Housing Allowance. A list of these agents and other sites to visit is available from the Housing Service.

Accommodation is often advertised in local shop windows or newspapers, but you must ensure that the rent is affordable and that the landlord will accept a Rent Bond before signing any tenancy agreement.

You may have to consider moving out of area as this is often cheaper. You will however still keep your local connection to the Hart District for two years. If you want to find out further information about local connection criteria, please speak to an Engagement and Support Officer.

Can I get help with my rent?

You may be entitled to claim Local Housing Allowance to help with your rent payments. How much you will get will depend on your personal circumstances so please talk to an Engagement and Support Officer for further information.

Will I have to repay the Rent Bond or rent in advance?

The rent in advance is a loan and must be repaid to Hart District Council by regular monthly installments. The amount to be repaid is dependent upon your financial circumstances.

If you do not make your regular monthly repayments then your Housing Register application will be suspended and you will not be able to bid for any properties.

When your tenancy comes to an end Hart District Council will look at recovering any monies owed to the council.

Where a Rent Bond is accepted by the landlord, and when your tenancy has ended, the landlord may make a claim against the bond. If the claim is valid, the Council will make this payment to him/her on your behalf but you will then be invoiced by the Council for the amount claimed. You would then have to repay the Council this sum of money.

For further information please contact us using the details overleaf.

Contact details

Address: Hart District Council,
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