

Further to the National Trust's response to the motion brought by TANT

The response fails to point out that the TFA and NFU represent many other folk who are not NT tenants - NT farm tenants are a tiny minority of their membership. TANT only deals with NT tenants.

The Trust fails to point out that much of the progress the trust details in its response to members regarding its provision to tenants was originally initiated by TANT. When TANT was first formed the Trust did not even know how many cottages it owned let alone their state of disrepair. It is only recently that, further to pressure from TANT, the Trust has catalogued the condition of the Let Estate and established a programme starting with category 3 properties. The target for bringing these houses to Decent Home Standard is 2020 although early indication shows there are more category 3 houses than first anticipated and that the programme will stretch beyond this target date.

TANT has campaigned to improve the quality and competency of Trust land agents leading to significant changes to the training and employment of personnel.

Funding for TANT was never intended to be seed corn. Early conversations with Lord Blakenham and Dame Fiona Reynolds indicated an on-going arrangement. TANT was funded for 14 years before the Trust announced its intention to withdraw funding (hardly seed corn). Interestingly this withdrawal coincided with TANT's participation in a BBC news item about being a Trust tenant.

The Trust omits to say that it has always denied TANT access to the addresses of its tenanted properties hindering TANT in its attempts to reach out to its members directly. Indeed, in the 2016 meeting between TANT executives and the Chairman and Director General of the Trust, the DG specifically stated that she would block any TANT coverage in the NT magazine. There has not been one shred of advice offered to TANT with regard to how to raise independent funds.

The reference to diverting funds astonishes TANT, bearing in mind the tens of thousands of pounds TANT has saved the NT; conversely TANT is able to cite cases where without TANT help, the Trust has spent sums in the region of £20,000 in legal fees and still lost their case.

Whenever possible TANT seeks to work in co-operation with the Trust to the benefit of all tenants and the Trust; hopefully this is conveyed in its motion. TANT is disappointed at the negative and erroneous response of the National Trust.