

Rent levels

TANT is well aware of the National Trusts policy of increasing rents to market levels. Many tenants have a 2 or 3 year rent review which is normally linked to inflation.

In the current economic climate inflation has fallen and we are likely to see deflation. Be aware of this when you meet with the National Trust for your rent review.

It is also worth noting that whilst market rent levels have increased in some parts of the country, in other areas rent levels are falling as unsold houses are placed on the rental market. It is always worth checking rent levels in the newspaper or for those with internet access on a comparison website such as Rightmove.

Remember— you have the right to challenge!

LAUNCH OF TENANTS HANDBOOK

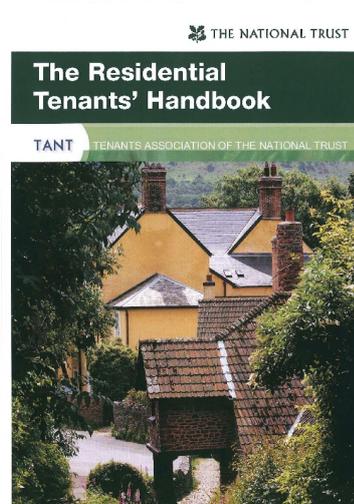
COMMITTEE MEMBER PETER BATE EXPLAINS

TANT has worked together with The National Trust for a number of years to help produce a Tenants Handbook.

The Trust aimed to issue one to every tenant by the end of July 2009, so if you have not received yours, please contact your local office to obtain your copy. If you have any further difficulty, as always please let TANT know about the problem.

This is an important working document for all of us who live in National Trust homes.

There are many firsts contained in the document - the Trust recognising tenants as customers and joint stewards of important build-



ings, setting out how repairs get done and a complaints procedure.

We urge you to take the time to read through your copy and keep it in a safe place for you to refer to whenever a query arises.

It is the first national hand-

book of its kind and the Trust's Director General Fiona Reynolds in her foreword invites suggestions for improvements which you can submit directly or through TANT.

One improvement TANT will be looking for by the second edition will be more specific timescales for repairs being carried out, but when you look at your copy you will see that much progress has been made in promoting the cause of tenants and the recognition of the need for the Trust and tenants to work together as partners.

Your comments are always welcome by phone, in writing or on the TANT website/messageboard.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

Committee members Alan Yates, Peter Bate and I will be meeting with the Trust's chairman Sir Simon Jenkins and Director General Dame Fiona Reynolds on October 28th.

TANT regularly meets with other senior figures in the Trust and we will be seeking ongoing representation at this level too.

Informality on an equal basis is the keynote and although we only have a couple of hours, rest assured that no

important issue will be missed...

Except that is, points ideas or questions that you, our Tenant Custodian members may have. I will put about five of these directly to Dame Fiona and Sir Simon at the meeting.

So let's have them; as succinct as possible please through any of our committee members, by post to TANT PO BOX 200 Sheffield S11 7TL Tel 0845 2242986, on my email atc121@msn.com or a message to my

mobile 07918715229.

We will report back in the next newsletter, together with new items such as house-swaps and other ideas for increased tenant mobility; sustainability: how tenants can be part of the Trust's policy, and local Trust managers and contractors in your home; how they should behave.

Andrew Turner-Cross
Chairman, TANT



TANT MEMBERSHIP FEES BY TANT CHAIRMAN ANDREW TURNER-CROSS

National Trust tenants will be aware that the TANT Committee run the organisation on a voluntary basis with no direct funding. The National Trust do cover some of our costs including the printing of the Newsletter, the Website and some out of pocket expenses. For TANT to move forward and provide a better service to its members we need to secure more funding.

We have a project in hand which will involve taking over the management of an empty building from the National Trust to provide TANT with a base and a useable resource centre with the potential to sub-let part of the building to provide us with some revenue income. The National Trust has also agreed to provide some direct funds to TANT on a match-funded basis. In other words, if we can raise say £5,000 through Membership fees then they will match that with another £5,000.

The TANT Committee have been lobbied at our last three AGM's to consider introducing a TANT Membership fee. This is something that we have resisted to date but on the basis that we need to raise funds to meet the growing demands on TANT and that many members have proposed the introduction of a Membership fee, the TANT Committee have agreed to proceed on this basis.

We propose to introduce an annual £10 membership fee (£5 concessions for pensioners, unemployed and those on benefits) on the understanding that this will be match-funded by the National Trust. In return, TANT offer to all of our members:-

- A helpline to offer advice and assistance to Members
- A website with updated information and message board
- Three Newsletters per year delivered to your home
- Representation of TANT Committee members at joint meetings with senior National Trust staff to put forward the views of our members and influence Trust policy
- Continuation of our project to establish a Tenants Resource Centre
- In time, to employ a member of staff to support our members
- Active involvement in introducing a Tenants Questionnaire to enable us to obtain feedback on tenants satisfaction with their home and the service that they receive from the National Trust
- To expand our activities and services

We offer this to members for less than 20p per week and should even 50% of National Trust tenants pay a membership fee of £10 then we would be able to raise £25,000. We urge you to join by completing the slip on the bottom of this page and sending it together with your payment to the address as detailed below.

Many thanks.

Andrew Turner-Cross

Chairman, TANT

TANT Membership application

Name: _____ Address: _____

Post code: _____ Telephone: _____ Date: _____

I enclose my cheque for £10 (£5 concessions) for 12 months membership of TANT.

For BACS, automated or other direct payments through the banking system:

Account name: TANT Branch: Oxted Sort Code:60-16-09 Account number: 75514834

Please send this slip and your cheque which should be payable to "TANT" (or slip only if paying by direct payment) to:-

Linda Baharier, TANT Treasurer, 1 Castlehill Cottages, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4LR.

I authorise TANT to retain my details on their electronic database. These details will not be disclosed to third parties.

Signed: _____