

Tolson Calls for Mandatory Tenant Deposit Scheme

Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West is speaking in the Members' Debate on Wednesday. He will be calling on the Scottish Government to introduce a mandatory Tenant Deposit scheme to protect tenants from rogue landlords.

Jim commented "Over 173,000 people live in the private rented sector across Scotland, but at present there are no laws to determine how much landlords can charge as a deposit or to stop landlords unfairly retaining deposits. Tenants in England already have their deposits protected by law under the self-funding Deposit Protection Service and I would like to see a similar scheme introduced in Scotland.

This loophole means that many individuals, often students and families already struggling are left out of pocket. In my constituency, I am aware of several cases of retention of deposits without just cause. The only way to get the deposit back in these cases is to take legal action at the small claims court but people are often deterred from this by the complexities and the costs involved."