

Sub-let Procedure

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Version Control

Date	Owner	Version	Reason for Change
April 25	Head of Housing & Customer	5.0	Cyclical Review
	Experience		

Summary of Changes

Section	Change
All	Removal of:
	 Housing Services Officer & replaced with Housing & Neighbourhood Services Officer
	 Head of Housing Services & replaced with Head of Housing & Customer Experience
	 Senior Housing Officer & replacing with Housing & Customer Services Manager
	 Housing Assistant & replaced with Customer Services Advisor
	Capita & replaced with Housing Management System

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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this procedure is to guide staff through the processes that should be followed when an application to sub-let the property (Appendix 1) is received by the Customer Services/ Housing team.

2.0 Sub-letting

Sub-letting is where a tenant wishes to allow the property they rent from Ark to be let to a third party for a specific period, not usually longer than six months. Where tenants are married or in a civil partnership or if they are a joint tenant, they will be required to get permission from their partner or other joint tenant to sub-let the property.

Tenants are required to demonstrate good cause for having to stay away from their home such as employment, study or family commitments. The tenant must complete the relevant processes and must provide the necessary documentation in accordance with this procedure before a decision can be taken. The tenant must also provide satisfactory evidence that they intend to return and that the property will remain their principal home (Appendix 2).

The Housing & Neighbourhood Services Officer (HNSO) will advise the tenant of the decision to approve or refuse permission within 28 days from the date the sublet application is received. It is the Customer Services Advisor's responsibility to ensure that the application is logged on the Housing Management system once received and ensure it is processed within the timescale.

2.1 Application to Sublet a Tenancy

Where a tenant has contacted the HNSO to advise that they wish to sub-let the property then an acknowledgement letter (Appendix 3) should be issued within three working days of the request outlining the subletting guidance notes (Appendix 4), enclosing application forms for the tenant and the sub-tenant to complete and confirming the information required to consider the request. The tenant must be made aware that an agreement must not be signed or the sub-tenant moved into the property until the HNSO has confirmed in writing that approval has been granted.

2.2 Sub-letting Qualifying Criteria

Section 12(2) of the Housing Act 2014 sets the following criteria for tenants wishing to sublet their property:

- The tenant must have been the tenant of the house throughout the twelve months immediately before they apply for written permission to sub-let their home; or
- If they were not the tenant throughout that period, the house must have been their only or principal home during those twelve months. The previous tenant must have notified the association that the person who is now the tenant was living there. The twelve-month period does not start until the Association is notified that the person is living at the property.

There are no residency conditions for the person that is applying to live in the property as a sub-tenant.

3.0 Sub-let Application

An application to sub-let the property must be completed by the tenant and the sub-tenant and returned to the Association with the relevant supporting documentation. The application to sub-let must confirm details of the proposed sub-let including:

- Reasons for the request and written evidence that the tenant intends to return;
- Tenant and proposed sub-tenant details, including name, current housing status, contact details and proposed forwarding address;
- Duration of the sub-let agreement;
- Declaration of conditions attached to the approval of the sub-let including; information provided, mandate to verify information, tenancy obligations, withdrawal of permissions and termination of tenancy.

3.1 Sub-tenant Agreement

It is the tenant's responsibility to submit, at their own expense, a sub-letting agreement for approval. The sub-letting agreement must contain terms for ending the agreement, dealing with tenancy obligations, repairs/ maintenance obligations, respect for other residents and breach of agreement.

4.0 Operation and Administration of the Sub-Letting Process

Once the completed applications and supporting documentation has been received from both applicants then details should be entered in Housing management system.

It is the responsibility of the tenant and proposed sub-tenant to provide all the information necessary to consider their request and to inform the HNSO of any changes in circumstances that may have a bearing on the decision to sub-let. All information provided by the tenant or

proposed subtenant, or asked for by the Association, will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Once all information has been collated then the HNSO should arrange a joint meeting between parties to discuss the application and ensure that all parties are fully aware of their responsibilities.

Following the meeting, the HNSO is required to provide a written decision to grant or refuse permission to sub-let the property. This decision should be made within 28 days from the date the application is received.

4.1 Approval Granted

Where approval has been granted the HNSO (Appendix 5) will write to the tenant confirming the decision to sub-let the property. The HMS and occupancy notes should be updated to note the decision and summary/ contact details entered on the rent account for information. An entry should be made in the diary one month prior to the end of the agreement for the HNSO to contact the tenant.

It is essential that the tenant submits a copy of the signed agreement to the Association within fourteen days of the approval being granted. Failure to do so will result in the approval being withdrawn.

The tenant should be issued with a detailed letter confirming the following terms of the sublet:

- Requirement to register a copy of the lease within fourteen days
- Period of let and to whom;
- Reminder of the tenant and sub-tenant responsibilities
- Requirement of the tenant to contact Housing Management at least one month prior to the end of lease to discuss their intention concerning their tenancy;
- Confirmation that should the tenant fail to return to the property that it would be their responsibility to ensure that the tenancy end process was managed and that the Association will have no responsibility to rehouse the sub-tenant.

The arrangement for the exchange of keys should be done between the tenant and the subtenant.

4.2 Approval Refused

The HNSO will not unreasonably refuse permission to sub-let the property. Where approval has not been granted, the HNSO will write to the tenant providing grounds for refusal (Appendix 6). The HMS should be updated to note the decision.

Reasonable grounds for refusing permission:

- The tenant was neither the tenant of the house or occupied the house as their only or principal home for the twelve-month period immediately before the written application to sub-let was received;
- A Notice of Proceedings for Possession has been served on the tenant specifying any
 of the 'conduct' grounds set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 2 of the Housing
 (Scotland) Act 2001;
- The Association has commenced legal action against the original tenant to recover the property. This includes abandonment proceedings;
- Decree for recovery of possession has been granted by the court;
- The proposed rent level or any other tenancy payment (e.g. deposit) set by the tenant, is too high;
- The application form is incomplete or contains false or misleading information;
- Unsatisfactory sub-tenant tenancy report (including rent arrears and anti-social behaviour);
- The proposed lease is insufficient;
- Approval of the sub-let would result in the property becoming overcrowded;
- The Association believes that the tenant is to receive a payment, in return for making the application;
- The Association proposes to carry out work to the house or the building and the proposed work would affect the accommodation that would be occupied by the subtenant.

4.3 Appeal Process

Tenants wishing a review of the decision to their request should submit a formal complaint in accordance with Ark's complaint handling procedure G12a.

5.0 Management of the Sub-let

A legal contract will continue to exist between the tenant and the Association, and the tenant will be responsible for the terms of tenancy for the duration of the agreement. The tenant will also be responsible for ensuring that the tenancy obligations including repairs and conduct of the tenancy are maintained. Where there is a breach in tenancy then the Association will enforce these conditions against the tenant.

The HNSO should ensure contact is made with the tenant at least one month prior to the end of the agreement. If the tenant has indicated that they wish to apply for an extension to the sub-let, then this should be made in writing to the Association. Once the request is received the housing officer should check the conduct of the sub-let prior to a decision being made. The tenant should be advised of the decision within twenty-eight days of the request.

Where the tenant has indicated that they do not wish to return to the property then termination of tenancy procedures should be initiated to bring the tenancy to an end. The tenant should be made aware that it is their responsibility to ensure vacant possession and ensure that the keys are returned on or before the date of termination. At the termination of the sub-let agreement, the Association will have no legal obligation to rehouse the subtenant.

5.1 Termination of Sub-tenancy

The agreement between the association and tenant can be terminated upon the following grounds;

Misleading or False information

Tenants applying to sub-let the property will be required to sign a declaration on the application form confirming that the information provided is accurate and that relevant information had not been withheld which may affect the decision to grant permission to sub-let. Where it is discovered that an application has been falsified then the Association will withdraw permission to sub-let, and the tenant will be required to terminate their sub• tenancy.

Sub-Tenant Moving into Property without Approval

Tenants applying to sub-let the property are made aware that approval must be granted in writing before a sub-let agreement is signed or the sub-tenant is moved into the property. Where the tenant has moved the sub-tenant into the property prior to approval being granted the tenant will be required remove the sub-tenant and advised to follow the correct application procedures.

• Failure to Contact Tenant/ Failure to Return to the Property

Where the tenant fails to respond to communications before the end of the agreement, the HNSO will contact the Association's solicitors for best advice and practice. A notice of the action should be issued to the tenant at their last known address (Appendix 7). The HNSO will also issue a letter to the sub-tenant advising of the date that the sub-let was due to expire and confirming that the agreement will not be extended. (Appendix 8)

6.0 Training & Monitoring

6.1 Training

Ark will ensure that relevant employees have an awareness of this policy and receive adequate training to enable them to effectively fulfil their roles and ensure the policy is implemented appropriately.

6.2 Monitoring

The Head of Housing & Customer Experience will ensure that this procedure is reviewed every three years.



Appendix 1 – Application to Sub-let

ARK HOUSING ASSOCIATION APPLICATION TO SUBLET

Please read the Guidance Leaflet before you start to fill out this form.

Please complete all the sections that apply to you and the person who wants to sub-let part or all your home. Please print clearly, except where you are asked to sign the form.

If the form has not been completed properly it will be sent back to you. This means it will take longer to give you a decision on your application.

If you have any questions about this form or the information we are asking for, please contact us on the telephone number in the Guidance Leaflet.

PLEASE NOTE - YOU CANNOT SUB-LET YOUR HOME UNTIL WE HAVE GIVEN YOU PERMISSION IN WRITING

1. YOUR DETAILS

TENANT	Forename:		Surname:	
	Date of Birth:			
JOINT TENANT	Forename:		Surname:	
[If you have a joint tenancy]	Date of Birth:			
ADDRESS				
PHONE:	MOBILE:		EMAIL:	
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION (Please give details of ever		you, sta	arting with you	rself)
Forename & Surr	name	Da	te of birth	Relationship to you
				TENANT
2. SUB-LET DETAILS				
PROPOSED START DATE:		PROPOSED END DATE:		
ACCOMMODATION TO BE	LET [Please tick	one]:	Whole property	Part of property
If you only wish to let part	of the property,	please l	ist all the room	s you will let:
1)	2	2)		

3)		4)			
Will you be aski	NTHLY CHARGE [R ng for a deposit, for ch will the deposit b	example	· ·	£ to furniture (circle one)?	YES / NO
Have you attach	ed a copy of the dra	aft sub-te	nancy agreement (c	ircle one)?	YES / NO
PLEASE GIVE Y	OUR REASONS FOR	RWISHIN	G TO SUBLET		
1) Please give t	LIVING AWAY FRO	re you wi	ill be living, including	g any phone number and e	email address:
3. DETAILS OF P	ERSON TO WHOM	YOU WIS	H TO SUB-LET		
NAME	Forename: Date of Birth:		Surname:		
CURRENT ADDRESS					
PHONE [Home]: PHONE [Work]:		MOBILE	:	EMAIL:	
PREVIOUS LAN	DLORDS				
Name					
Address & phone number					
DETAILS OF AN	Y OTHER PERSON(S) WHO V	VILL BE LIVING WIT	H THE SUB-TENANT	
Forena	ame and Surname		Date of birth	Relationship to su	ıb-tenant

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR		
Has any action been taken again who will live with them for anti	nst the proposed sub-tenant or an -social behaviour (circle one)?	yone YES / NO
If YES, please give the full name	e of the person(s):	
What action was taken?	Court Action	
[Tick all appropriate box(es)	Anti – social behaviour order	
	Less formal action such a writter	n warning
SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003		
	nyone who will be living with the r the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (ci	-
If YES, please give the full name	e of the person(s):	

4. DECLARATION - TENANT/JOINT TENANT

Please read through the following statements and sign at the bottom to show you understand and

agree with them. If you have a joint tenancy both tenants must sign this Declaration.

I / We* agree to:

- ensure that the property does not become overcrowded during the sub-tenancy;
- ensure that the rent continues to be paid when it is due;
- be responsible for the actions and behaviour of the sub-tenant(s);
- inform Ark Housing Association of any change in my / our* circumstances;
- ask Ark in writing for permission to increase the rent, or change the number of those living with the sub-tenant, or take in a new sub-tenant;
- return to my / our* tenancy at the end of the sublet period as stated in the sub-let agreement, if the whole property is sub-let;
- provide 28 days' notice to Ark Housing Association if I / we* do not wish to return to my / our* tenancy.

I / we* agree I / we* will have no right to transfer my / our* tenancy to the person(s) subletting the tenancy.

All information given by me / us* to Ark is true. If I / we* supply any false information or keep back any information I / we* we should have provided, my / our* application may be cancelled.

If I / we* are given permission to sub-let because I / we* have supplied false information or I /we* have kept back information we should have provided, permission may be cancelled.

[* Delete whichever does not apply]

Signed:	(Tenant)	Date:
Signed:	(Joint Tenar	it) Date:
5. DECLARATION - QUALIFY	ING OCCUPIER (who is not a jo	int tenant)
		oint tenant) is living with you, to you applying to Ark Housing
Forename & surname (pr	nt):	
I am the tenant's (circle o	ne): Husband Wife	Civil Partner Co-habitee
I agree that the tenant na property listed in Section 1 of this		ousing Association to sub-let the
Signed:		Date:
6. DECLARATION - PROPOS	ED SUB-TENANT	
Please read through the follounderstand and agree with them.	owing statements and sign at t	he bottom to show you
I agree that:		
	sociation of any change in my o	
contacted for a tenancy refer		ent or previous landlord can be
Any thirds party agency can application.	be contacted if more informati	on is needed for my sub-let
	to Ark is true. If I supply any frovided, I will not be allowed to	alse information or keep back any o become a sub-tenant.
part of the property I have oc	ake up the sub-tenancy, I agree cupied) in good condition to the d as stated in the sub-let agree	e Ark tenant(s) mentioned above,
I will have no succession rig	phts to the sub-let property.	
Signed		Date:

Please return this form to:

Proposed sub-tenant

Ark Housing Association, Lochside House, 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh, EH12 9DT Tel: 0131 447 9027

For office use only:

Date form received:			Target date for reply:	
Acknowledgement letter	sent on (date):		
Form checked and correct	t on (date):			
Form incorrect/incomplet	e – returned (on (date)	:	
Tenant contacted for mor	e details on (date):	Notes:	
Sub-tenant contacted to c	heck details	on (date)	: Notes:	
Landlord(s) contacted on	(date(s):		Notes:	
Application approved?	Yes / No	HSO sig	nature:	Date:
Final reply letter sent on (date):			
Written confirmation from	n tenant that	they wis	h to proceed received on (date):	



Appendix 2 – Intention to return to property following sublet

Tenants Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Contact E-mail	
Contact Phone number	
Sub - Tenants Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Contact E-mail	
Contact Phone number	
	tenants name) confirm that I full intend to return to the above eed period of absence from the property.
address following the agr	
address following the agr	
address following the agr Tenants Name: Tenants Signature:	
address following the agr Tenants Name: Tenants Signature: Date:	

Appendix 3 – Acknowledgement Letter



Date

«title1» «forename1» «surname1»
«address1»
«address2» «address3»
«address4»
«address5»
«postcode»

Dear «title1» «surname1»

Application to sub-let

Thank you for contacting us to express your interest in subletting your property. If you would like to apply for a sublet, please fill out the enclosed application form and return it in the prepaid envelope. Please also see the guidance notes explaining the application procedure.

All applications should be fully completed before returned to allow us to fully assess and process the application.

We endeavour to let all applicants know the outcome of the application no later than 28 days from the date we receive the completed form.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below should you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Customer Services Advisor 0131 447 9027 Customer.services@arkha.org.uk

Appendix 4 - Guidance Notes



Sub-letting Guidance Notes

If you are going to be away from your home for a long time, for example, to work abroad or serve a prison sentence, you can rent out (sublet) your home to another person. You need Ark's written permission before you can do this. Any other joint tenant, partner or person living with you must also give their written agreement. We will contact them to arrange this.

If you want to sublet the property, the property must have been your only or principle home for at least 12 months immediately before the date of your written request to sublet the house to someone else.

As the tenant you will still be responsible for keeping your home in good condition and for paying the rent. You will also be responsible for the conduct/behaviour of the person you are subletting to, their family and any visitors. You should think carefully about what this means and what you need to do to manage your tenancy while you are away from your home.

If we give permission to sub-let, it will be for a fixed period of time, normally for 6 months and a maximum of 12 months. It is important you have read the above information if you are thinking about what it means to be an Ark tenant and if you believe the sub-tenant will be able to ensure that the rights and responsibilities of your tenancy will be upheld in your absence.

Tenants' rights and responsibilities - managing your home

As an Ark tenant, you will sign a Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement or Occupancy Agreement with us as your landlord. This is a legal document and is legally binding, meaning you are agreeing to keep to the rules of your tenancy agreement and should:

- pay rent and charges on time
- be a good neighbour
- allow access for a gas safety check every year

Cleaning shared areas and closes

If you live in a block of flats with shared areas it is important that all residents take turns to clean all areas.

Shared areas along with stairs and passages should be kept clear of any potential risks to health and safety. Any issues should be highlighted to your housing officer.

Repairs

It is important that all repairs are reported when identified to ensure that the property remains in good condition.

Gas safety checks

Every year we will send you a letter with a date for your annual gas safety inspection. We inspect any installations in the house provided by us. You will be given a copy of the

inspection report. If repairs or replacement of any of the installations is required, we will do so within a reasonable time. You must allow this inspection to take place. If you require any further information, or to re-schedule the date of your inspection, please contact Ark or the contractor using the contact details shown in your letter.

Decorating

Decorating your Ark property is your responsibility.

Alterations & Improvements

You can do home improvements on an Ark property but you must seek permission by following Ark's Tenants Alterations and Improvements Policy and Procedure by completing a Alterations and Improvements application form. Permission may not be granted so you must wait until you receive permission before you start any works. You can contact Ark Customer Services to request an application form.

Garden Maintenance

Tenants are responsible for maintaining their gardens to a satisfactory standard, if it is a self-contained garden. Your garden should be kept clean, tidy and not overgrown. Rubbish which builds up in gardens may be a health and safety risk. It's important to let us know where there is a build-up of household rubbish or furniture which could attract vermin or if there are items such as syringes or needles.

Household pets

You must apply for permission for any pets that you want within an Ark property, you cannot have any pets without permission. It depends on the type of property that you have and the type of tenancy that you have if Ark will permit pets.

For further information or advice in relation to your tenancy please contact your housing officer who will be able to help you.

Completing this application form does not mean we will give permission, but we will only refuse if there is good reason to do so. We will let you know within 28 days.

Both you and the person who wants to rent your home should complete the application form. We are unable to process your enquiry until both forms are received

Appendix 5 – Sub-let Approval Granted



Date

«title1» «forename1» «surname1»

«address1»

«address2»

«address3»

«address4»

«address5»

«postcode»

Dear «title1» «surname1»

Sublet Application Approval

I am writing to confirm that Ark Housing Association have formally given consent for you to proceed with the sublet agreement with <<pre>proposed subtenant >>.

The duration of the sublet is for <<pre>roposed duration >> and is due to commence on
<<pre>composed start date >> and end on <<pre>composed end date >>. It is your responsibility as
the tenant to contact your Housing & Neighbourhood Services Officer at least one month
prior to the end of the lease to discuss your intention concerning your tenancy.

As you will be aware you are required to provide Ark with a copy of the lease that you have with your sub-tenant, this is required no later than 14 days from date of receipt of this letter.

Should you fail to return to the property following the duration of the sublet agreement it is your responsibility to ensure that the tenancy is terminated in accordance with the terms and conditions of your tenancy agreement, and we can confirm that the Ark will have no responsibility to rehouse your sub-tenant.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is important that you consider both you and your sub-tenant's responsibilities as detailed in the sub-let guidance notes and the arrangement for the exchange of keys should be done between the tenant and the sub-tenant.

If you have any queries relating to the arrangements for the sub-let arrangement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,





Date

«title1» «forename1» «surname1»
«address1»
«address2»
«address3»
«address4»
«address5»

Dear «title1» «surname1»

«postcode»

Sublet Application – Address of Proposed Sublet Property

Thank you for your application to subletting your property with << name of person on sublet application>>.

I am afraid that on this occasion I cannot approve your application to sub-let <<state reasons why the application is not being approved>>

Tenants wishing a review of the decision to review the refusal of their application to sublet their property should write to the Housing & Customer Services Manager within fourteen days of receipt of this letter, giving their reasons for appeal.

The application will then be reviewed and a written response will be provided within five working days outlining any new decision or confirming previous decision.

Yours sincerely,

Appendix 7 – Notice to Seek Legal Advice



Date

«title1» «forename1» «surname1»

«address1»

«address2»

«address3»

«address4»

«address5»

«postcode»

Failure to adhere to sublet agreement

I am writing to advise that despite several attempts to contact you regarding the above sublet we have been left with no option but to contact our solicitors to seek legal advice on the situation.

If we take legal action against you, you will be liable for these costs which are usually in the region of £300.

I would urge that you contact me as a matter of urgency to resolve this issue and prevent any further action having to be taken.

Yours Sincerely

Appendix 8 – End of Sublet Agreement: sub-tenant



Date

«title1» «forename1» «surname1»

«address1»

«address2»

«address3»

«address4»

«address5»

«postcode»

Dear Subtenant,

End of Sub-tenant Agreement

I am writing to you to advise that the sub tenancy agreement that was approved has now expired. The agreement was in place from << INSERT START AND END DATES>>.

I can confirm that we are not extending the agreement and would ask that you vacate the property as soon as possible.

As agreed at the start of the sub-let agreement Ark has no legal obligation to provide any alternative accommodation to you as a sub-tenant.

We would recommend that should you require alternative accommodation that you contact your local authority housing options team who will be able to provide you with further advice.

Should you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely