

Housing Repairs

Introduction

This Factsheet is about complaints about Housing Repairs. It should be read together with our '[How to Complain](#)' webpage, available on the 'Making A Complaint' tab.

We can only consider complaints about councils and housing associations; we cannot deal with complaints about private landlords.

As a landlord, the council or housing association is legally responsible for carrying out certain repairs. The law states that the problem must first be brought to the attention of the landlord and the landlord must also have been given a reasonable opportunity to carry out the repair before you can complain to us.

A tenant has some maintenance responsibilities which can be found in your tenancy agreement.

Repairs which the landlord is responsible for include the following:

- The structure and outside of your home (including the roof and pipes);
- The heating system (including the boiler and hot water supply);
- The bath, shower, sink & toilet (including associated pipe-work).
- Stairways or lifts you might share with others (e.g. in a block of flats)

The landlord must also check any gas boiler or appliance it has provided every year and give you a safety certificate to show that this has been done.

What we can do

Look at complaints that the landlord has:

- Failed to carry out repairs to the home that you rent from it;
- Delayed dealing with your request for repair(s);
- Missed appointments;
- Failed to sort out a repair problem that you have reported within a reasonable time.

What we cannot do

We cannot:

- Deal with complaints about private landlords;
- Force your landlord to carry out improvements (e.g. installing a new bathroom suite);
- Force your landlord to carry out more extensive repairs than necessary to deal with the problem

Issues to bear in mind

Your tenancy agreement may set out other specific things your landlord has also agreed to be responsible for.

Many landlords will give you a 'Tenant's Handbook' which will include information, such as, the timescales for carrying out a repair.

Further information

You may want to consider contacting the following organisations for advice:

Shelter Cymru which provides independent and free housing advice and support. You can contact them by phone on **0345 075 5005** or the internet at www.sheltercymru.org.uk.

Citizens Advice Cymru which provides independent and free advice and support on a range of problems (including housing). You can contact them via the internet at www.citizensadvice.org.uk (selecting the 'Wales' site page option) and entering your postcode for details on how to reach your nearest CAC advice office.

Your local Assembly Member may also be able to offer advice and assistance.

We are independent and impartial; we cannot order public bodies to do what we recommend – but, in practice, they almost always do.

Examples of cases that we have looked at can be found on our website, under the 'Publications' tab on the '[Our Findings](#)' page.

Contact us

If you are unsure whether we would be able to look into your complaint, please [contact us](#) on 0300 790 0203 or ask@ombudsman.wales

Also available in Welsh.

Easy Read

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