

Private Sector Housing Enforcement Fees from 18th November 2010

The Housing Act 2004 allows Councils to charge for taking enforcement action. Legislation also allows Councils to recover costs for officer's time and expenses needed to determine what works need to be carried out in default.

The Private Sector Housing Service will recover costs and fees when formal action is taken where it is reasonable to expect the owner to pay for the charges in the circumstances. Costs will be charged on the basis of the following table:

Table of Charges for Enforcement Action

Standard Charge (Per Property)	
a) Single Family Dwelling (SFD) Notices	£320
b) Houses in Multiple Occupation Notices	£525

Supplemental Fees	
a) Prohibition or Emergency Prohibition Order Served	£100
b) Variation of a Notice	£55
c) Emergency Remedial Action	£100

Fee Calculation	
First Notice	Standard Charge a) or b) plus any supplements
Subsequent Notices	Supplemental fees only

There will be discretion to waive the charge when it is not reasonable to expect a person to pay for the enforcement action taken i.e. where the reason for the charge was outside of the control of the person charged or persons acting on their behalf.

Recovery of Debts

Expenses will be recovered in accordance with Section 50 of the Housing Act 2004, by a demand for payment of the charge.

At the time that the demand becomes operative, the sum recoverable together with the interest accrued will, until recovered, be registered as a local land charge on the premises concerned. Interest will be added to outstanding charges at 4% above the current bank rate calculated on a daily basis.

Any enquiries regarding fees should be made directly to the Private Sector Housing team on 01432 260746.

How to pay: Send your payment to Herefordshire Council, Private Sector Housing, 84 Whitecross Road, Hereford, HR4 0DH. Make your cheque or postal order payable to 'Herefordshire Council'.