

RENT FROM A PRIVATE LANDLORD

A private landlord is someone who buys property to rent it out. You can apply to rent from a private landlord from the age of 16; however landlords generally prefer to rent their property to those people over the age of 35. This can be for two reasons; many landlords assume that young people will have parties and damage their property, and also because people over 35 get more help to pay rent if they are on benefits (*people over 25 can access Rent Deposit Schemes, which are offered by most Councils, and are designed to help those on a low income access private rented property.*) The rents for privately rented property can be very expensive with a 1 bedroom flat in the local area starting at around £300* per month and going up to over £450-500* per month for a larger place. A landlord will also look for a months rent in advance as well a deposit, so this could mean handing over between £600—£1000* before you even move in.

When moving into a private rented property, you should always sign a contract called a tenancy agreement or lease. This is a contract between you and the landlord that should state how long you are allowed to stay in the property, how much the rent is and when it has to be paid, as well as what is expected of you as a tenant. Remember to read it carefully and if you are unsure about anything seek professional advice before signing it. You can also check out our Rights and Responsibilities section for advice on tenancy agreements and leases.

To find places for rent from private landlords, look in newspapers, shop windows, estate agents or the internet.

*(costs were correct at time of going to press)

