# **PROPERTY**

## LETTING & MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS



Landlords Relax. We take care of it all.....

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### We take care of it all ...

**Free Market Appraisals** 

**Tenant Find** 

**Accompanied Viewings** 

**Full Management** 

Let Only

Personal Service

**Home Visits** 

**Excellent** Value

**Rent Guarantee Solutions** 

Rightmove / Zoopla Advertising



## **DESCRIPTION OF A CONTRACT OF**

Peak Property are a Southend based Lettings Agency.

Our offices are located in Queens Road at the very heart of Southend





We specialise in residential lettings and management consistently delivering a high level of customer service throughout the areas of Shoeburyness, Thorpe Bay, Southend on Sea, Southchurch Westcliff, Chalkwell, Leigh on Sea, Rayleigh, Hadleigh, Thundersley, Benfleet, Basildon and Canvey Island.

You can be assured that whether you are landlord or a tenant we will look after your interests in a highly professional manner to ensure you remain happy with your decision to deal with Peak.

#### **Specialists**

We are a local, independent firm specialising in Residential Lettings and Property Management.

We understand that letting your property, especially for the first time, can be a worrying experience and with this in mind our most important consideration is providing you the Landlord with the best possible service and the right tenant for your property. We never forget that the property is your most important asset and we can confidently assure you that by instructing us to act as your Letting and Management Agents your asset will be in professional and caring hands.





We regularly inspect your property and provide you with a full report of its condition together with supporting photos

#### **Competitive Rates**

Our fees are competitive and may be open to negotiation dependent on the level of Service required. We are particularly committed to investment Landlords and savings can be made on the smallest of portfolios.

#### **A Personal Service**

We pride ourselves in offering a personal and friendly Service, whilst at the same time maintaining

a high standard of competence and professionalism.

#### **Carefully Selected Quality Tenants**

Drawn from a continually updated register, all prospective Tenants are thoroughly referenced and credit checked. In some cases we will also require a guarantor.

#### Out of Hours Service

For our initial meetings with you we will if necessary be pleased to visit your property outside normal office hours, at a time that is convenient to you, and thus fit in with your busy schedule. A member of staff is also available on the telephone out of hours until 8pm weekdays and 6pm weekends.

#### Insurance for Landlords

We offer a range of competitively priced insurance products designed specially for Landlords, providing extra security and peace of mind. These include:

#### **RENTAL GUARANTEE**



Our rent guarantee warranty has <u>no excess</u> and is included free when we manage your property\*

#### What do we offer?

#### **A Tailored Service**

Outlined below are the two basic elements of our Service. However, we maintain a flexible attitude, and are generally able to adapt our Service to meet our client's individual circumstances and needs, for example by providing a part only Service, or occasionally by taking on additional tasks and duties.

#### **Full Management**

This is our inclusive Service, which provides for the marketing of the property and carrying out viewings, leading to the introduction and vetting of a prospective Tenant. This proving satisfactory, we will then go ahead and prepare the tenancy agreement, and if required an inventory. The Tenant will then be checked in against the inventory.

During the tenancy we carry out periodic inspection visits. Should these bring to light any maintenance issues, we will (within the confines of our Management Agreement) recommend, oversee and account for any necessary repairs.

Collectin<mark>g</mark> and processing of rental payments is also part of the Service. These will be credited automatically to the Landlord's nominated bank account.

Towards the end of the tenancy, we will liaise with the Tenant, and renew the tenancy agreement or arrange to check them out as applicable.

This Service is suitable for those Landlords who are not residing locally, or would rather not deal with the Tenants directly, preferring all aspects to be handled by an Agent.

We offer a free rent guarantee warranty (with no excess) on all managed properties(except house shares)

Letting Only

Our Letting Only Services includes marketing of the property and carrying out viewings, leading to the introduction and vetting of a prospective Tenant. This proving satisfactory, we will then go ahead and prepare the tenancy agreement, and if required an inventory.

Following this, the first month's rent and a security deposit will be collected. These will be credited to the Landlord less our agreed fee. Managing the tenancy, including the maintenance and rent collection, will then be the responsibility of the Landlord.



We are always on top of maintenance requests and have a team of Tradesman to serve your needs That's one reason why we are different....

#### **Preparing the Property**

We have found that a good relationship with Tenants is the key to a smooth-running tenancy. As Property Managers this relationship is our job. It is important that the Tenants should feel comfortable in their temporary home, and that they are receiving value for their money. It follows therefore that a well maintained property in a good decorative order will go towards this, whilst also achieving a higher rental figure. Tenants are also more inclined to treat such a property with greater respect.

#### **General Condition**

Electrical, gas plumbing, waste, central heating and hot water systems must be safe, sound and in good working order. Repairs and maintenance are at the Landlords expense unless misuse can be established. Interior decorations should be in good condition and preferably plain, light and neutral.

#### Personal items, ornaments etc.

Personal possessions, ornaments, pictures, books etc. should be removed from the premises, especially those of real or sentimental value. All cupboards and shelf space should be left clear for the Tenant's own use.

#### Gardens

Gardens should be left neat, tidy and rubbish free, with any lawns cut. Tenants are required to maintain the gardens to a reasonable standard, provided they are left the necessary tools. However, few Tenants are experienced gardeners, and if you value your garden, or if it is particularly large, you may wish us to arrange visits by our regular gardener.

#### Cleaning

At the commencement of the tenancy the property must be in a thoroughly clean condition, and at the end of each tenancy it is the Tenants' responsibility to leave the property in a similar condition. Where they fail to do so, cleaning will be arranged at their expense.

#### Information for the Tenant

It is helpful if you leave information for the Tenant, e.g. on operating the central heating and hot water system, washing machine and alarm system, and the day refuse is collected etc.

#### Keys

You should provide one set of keys for each Tenant. Where we will be managing we will arrange to have duplicates cut as required.



We can organize your cleaning and gardening That's one reason why we are different....

#### **General Advice for Landlords**



#### Mortgage

If your property is mortgaged, you should obtain your mortgagee's written consent to the letting. They may require additional clauses in the tenancy agreement of which you must inform us.

#### Leaseholds

If you are a leaseholder, you should check the terms of your lease, and obtain the necessary written consent before letting.

#### Insurance

You should ensure that you are suitably covered for letting under your buildings insurance. Failure to inform your insurers may invalidate your policies.





#### Bills and regular outgoings

We recommend that you arrange for regular outgoings e.g. service charges, maintenance contracts etc. to be paid by standing order or direct debit. However where we are managing the property,

by prior written agreement we may make payment of certain bills on your behalf, provided such bills are received in your name at our office, and that sufficient funds are held to your credit.

#### Council tax and utility accounts

We will arrange for the transfer of Council Tax and utility accounts to the Tenant. Meter readings will be taken, allowing your closing gas and electricity accounts to be drawn up. All these matters we will handle for you, however British Telecom will require instructions directly from both the Landlord and the Tenant.



We tell the utility providers that you have new tenants and provide them with reads.

Income tax

When resident in the UK, it is entirely the Landlords responsibility to inform the Inland Revenue of rental income received, and to pay any tax due. Where the Landlord is resident outside the UK during a tenancy, under rules effective from 6 April 1996, unless an exemption certificate is held, we as Landlord's Agent are obliged to retain and forward to the Inland Revenue on a quarterly basis, an amount equal to the basic rate of income tax from rental received, less certain expenses. An application form for exemption from such deductions is available from this Agency, and further information may be obtained fu

is available from this Agency, and further information may be obtained from the Inland Revenue.

#### The inventory

It is most important that an inventory of contents and schedule of condition be prepared, in order to avoid misunderstanding or dispute at the end of a tenancy. Without such safeguards, it will be impossible for the Landlord to prove any loss, damage, or significant deterioration of the property or contents. In order to provide a complete Service, we will if required arrange for a member of staff to prepare an inventory and schedule of condition, at the cost quoted in our Agency Agreement.

#### **Energy Performance Certificate**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 it is a requirement by law that all property which is let after this date must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) in place. The EPC does however last for 10 years. We can assist you in obtaining this if required.

The devil is in the detail – Our inventory reports are both written and photographic.









#### **Important Safety Requirements**

The following requirements are the responsibility of the owner (Landlord). Where you have signed our Full Management Agency Agreement, they are also our responsibility. Therefore where we are managing we will need to ensure compliance.

#### Health and Safety - Gas

Annual safety check

All gas appliances and flues in rented accommodation must be checked for safety within 12 months of being installed, and thereafter at least every 12 months by a competent engineer (i.e. a CORGI registered gas installer).



#### Maintenance

There is a duty to ensure that all gas appliances, flues and associated pipework are maintained in a safe condition at all times.

#### Records

Full records must be kept for at least 2 years of the inspections of each appliance and flue, of any defects found and of any remedial action taken.

#### Copies to tenants

A copy of the safety certificate issued by the engineer must be given to each new tenant before their tenancy commences, or to each existing tenant within 28 days of the check being carried out.

#### Health and Safety – Electrical

Electrical appliances and equipment provided in tenanted premises must be safe. It is therefore necessary to make a visual check to ensure that all electrical items, plugs and leads appear completely safe and undamaged, and remove or replace any faulty items.





Let only or full management, we always ensure that you comply with the law and your responsibility as a Landlord

#### **Consumer Protection - Fire**

The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations provide that specified items supplied in the course of letting property must meet minimum fire resistance standards. The regulations apply to all upholstered furniture, beds, headboards and mattresses, sofabeds, futons and other convertibles, nursery furniture, garden furniture suitable for use in a dwelling, scatter cushions, pillows and non-original covers for furniture. They do not apply to antique furniture or furniture made before 1950, bedcovers including duvets, loose covers for mattresses, pillowcases, curtains, carpets or sleeping bags.

Items which comply will have a suitable permanent label attached. Non-compliant items must be removed before a tenancy commences.

#### **Smoke Alarms**

All properties built since June 1992 must have been fitted with mains powered smoke detector alarms from new. Recent legislation requires a smoke alarm to be fitted on every level of a tenanted property. It is also good practice to install a carbon monoxide alarm in all properties with a gas fired boiler.

We hope that the general points covered in this guide will be of some assistance to you. If there are any aspects of which you are unsure, please telephone our office. Alternatively we can visit you at your home to discuss your individual requirements, at your convenience.





Don't worry, if you forget to fit a smoke alarm, we'll fit one for you on the day your tenant checks in.