

Tenant Panel & RTO News

Summer edition

July 2020

Welcome to the summer edition of the Tenant Panel & RTO News. As lockdown eases, we hope you're keeping well and are continuing to follow government guidance on coronavirus. You'll know that advice on coronavirus is changing all the time, you can keep up to date by visiting www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus and www.edinburgh.gov.uk.

Online meetings. Coronavirus has led to tenants and tenants' groups increasingly linking up with each other and other organisations online on Zoom, Skype and Microsoft Teams. What's your group been doing? Let us know? Do you have the digital equipment you need? Do you need to support to get online? Email tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk or call 0131 529 7805. Please see below for further information on where you can get support.

People Know How have partnered up with Venture Scotland, Change Recruitment Group, the Taranata Group, Edinburgh Palette, the University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Remakery to get computers and internet connection to those who need them during the coronavirus outbreak. To refer a community member who could benefit, email contactus@peopleknowhow.org or phone 0131 569 0525.

The [Scottish Tech Army](#) is bringing together volunteers skilled in tech and those who need support, to strengthen Scotland's health and economic well-being through the use of tech in light of coronavirus. Visit their [website](#) to find out more, volunteer, or suggest a project that

Freedom of Information for tenants.

Do you know your rights to know? This free session is on Thursday 16 July at 2pm online. Promoted by the Tenant Participation and Advisory Service, it will be led by Paul Mutch from the Information Commissioner's Office. Join on [eventbrite](#).

Homelessness services

Five Council Resilience Centres (CRCs) are open for those who require access to emergency assistance with

- urgent homelessness
- urgent cash payments
- harassment of imminent and real threat.

The CRCs are here:

- North East locality office, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4DS
- North West locality office, 8 West Pilton Gardens, Edinburgh, EH4 4DP
- South East locality office, 40 Captain's Road, Edinburgh, EH17 8QF
- South West locality office, 10 Westside Plaza, Edinburgh, EH14 2ST

they could help you with. Alternatively, you can email info@scottishtecharmy.org.

Community Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRR Fund) In partnership with the National Emergencies Trust, Foundation Scotland is delivering the RRR Fund to help support local charities and grassroots organisations across Scotland to respond to coronavirus and recover from its impact. Constituted community groups and charities can apply at any time for funds up to a maximum of £5000 (minimum is £1000). [Find out more here.](#)

Key to Choice has reopened. The number of homes advertised each week will be limited at first and increase slowly to make sure that it remains as safe as possible for everyone. In accordance with the Scottish Government guidance for social landlords during the coronavirus outbreak, the initial focus will be to house those applicants who have been statutorily assessed as homeless and/or have an extreme housing need.

Stair cleaning has restarted after being stopped for a short time, apart from emergency and sheltered housing cleaning, due to coronavirus. This was done because it was vital to help prevent the spread of the illness and protect residents and staff. As part of addressing cleaning that has not taken place, the stair cleaning teams have been deck scrubbing/deep cleaning all stairs to help bring them back up to a satisfactory standard, at no extra charge to residents or the Council. This cleaning is above the standard specification in the contract carried out as part of the regular rota cleans. To report an emergency stair clean, call 0131 529 7484 or email stair.cleaning2@edinburgh.gov.uk

For further information on the newsheet, email tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk
Or call 0131 529 7805.

- Criminal Justice / Social Work Centre, Newkirkgate Shopping Centre Units C&D, Newkirkgate Shopping Centre, Edinburgh EH6 6AD

All are open from 10am to 4pm, with the exception of Craigmillar, which is open 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4pm Friday.

Or, advise that people can phone the Homelessness and Housing Support Team 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 3.40pm on a Friday on **0131 529 7125**

Out of hours call **0131 200 2000** or freephone **0800 032 5968**.

Maximise your funds

You may want to see if there's any way you can increase your income:

- Are you getting all the benefits you're entitled to?
- Can you challenge a benefit decision that has reduced your income?

Email

IncomeMaximisation@edinburgh.gov.uk for help.