

Renters' Voice!

What 6 months means to me: Stories from private renters

Jenni



"I am a private renter and for me 6 months' notice to leave my home would mean the incredible opportunity for me to find a property that is suited to my needs as a person with disabilities. Within the private rental sector, there are very few entirely suitable properties that are affordable, and finding one that can accommodate my assistance dog along with a young family who are growing up rapidly and needing space is quite a challenge. 6 months means less stress, the opportunity to save for a deposit and first month's rent, and to pack at a pace that suits my health needs with the time I need to move between properties.

Without six months' notice the reality is that it becomes a case of finding a house, any house, regardless of suitability. It means potential debt in raising the money necessary to fund the move. Immense stress and a long period of physical recovery which impacts on every aspect of my life."



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Sharon

"I am a private renter and for me 6 months' notice to leave my home would mean I wouldn't have to face the stress again of what happened to me.

I was given a notice to quit as the house I had rented didn't have adequate sanitation. The landlord wasn't prepared to make the repairs and so put the house up for sale. We had not yet recovered from the emotional and physical upheaval of leaving our previous family home of 20 years, when after only two months, our landlord told us to leave with immediate effect. I have a husband, three teenage kids and a golden retriever to consider.

We had no time to prepare ourselves, and only by luck, good timing and personal strength were we able to get sorted in another home. The situation made all of us anxious. Everything had to be sorted again, more mounting costs at time when my husband lost his job. Eventually I became sick due to the stress.

Quite frankly a 6-month notice to quit would give me time to prepare and would prevent me from ending up in such a stressful situation again and against my own will. What would I tell the kids if this was to happen again? I promised them we weren't moving again for quite some time but I lay awake at nights feeling very insecure about this that I had no control over it at all.

Without 6 months' notice I would be faced with my mental health becoming weaker, anxiety levels in my children rising, stress and money worries - we would all suffer as a result."



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Brigitte



“I am a private renter and for me 6 months’ notice to leave my home would mean security. It would give me enough time to find another suitable home and time to move. It also means that I am treated with dignity and respect.

I am a long-term renter, and because I have been renting my current home for over 20 years, I am already entitled to 3 months' notice. However, after so many years in one property, you are not just moving yourself, you are moving your life. Many renters nowadays are also moving their workplace. Moving house is one of the most stressful life-events, and to do it in 1 month or 3 months is nearly impossible without serious impact on your physical and mental health.

Renters nowadays just don’t have a few boxes and suitcases and move with a shopping trolley, but are moving homes, families, special needs, disabilities, pets, furniture, memories and networks, so we need more time.

Without 6 months’ notice I am faced with an impossible situation.”



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Ellie



"I am a private renter and for me 6 months' notice to leave my home would mean having time. The time to try to save for a deposit, and the time to find a suitable and affordable home for my family. We had to move last year and it took us 5 months to find a suitable property that didn't have significant damp and repair issues, and we had to take out a loan to cover the deposit and moving costs.

Without 6 months' notice I am faced with a scramble to find any accommodation, and forced to take what I can find regardless of how poor the condition, how unreasonable the contract terms, or how unsuitable it is for my family. I deserve more than just shelter; I deserve to have a home."



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Angelika



“I am private renter and what 6 months’ notice means to me is firstly that I would have enough time to find suitable accommodation. Property Agencies or private landlords may not have enough properties which would be suitable for me to live in. It is also important for me that I am familiar with the area I would be moving to and that it has access to the public transport. Another priority for me would be to find a property within a price range that I can afford, because I know how it feels to struggle to pay the bills.

Having 6 months’ notice would give me time to find a home that is suitable and affordable, and to find any necessary support which is not always available in a short period of time. What is more, 6 months’ notice would give me time to clean the property and make sure there is time to discuss any repairs that are still due with the landlord to make sure I get the deposit back. In that way definitely I feel like more time is needed.

Without 6 months’ notice I am faced with a cluttered house, inability to pack on time, and not enough time to find a suitable flat or house that I can afford and finally arrange affordable moving company.”



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