

Attention: Brenda Flaherty. Clerk to the Licensing Board, Aberdeen City Council

Dear Ms Flaherty,

Thank you for your help on the telephone, Councillor Milne correctly referred me to you.

Background

Please raise on the agenda for the next Licensing Budgetary meeting my objections to the swingeing increases in HMO fees from £237 to £1500 in four years an increase of over 600%

All the HMOs that I rent out are in Torry and provide affordable housing at an average budgetary figure of £300 per man per month.

The increased HMO costs are not possible to pass on, with the credit crunch re-financing property (if you can ) has become more expensive.

Margins are being squeezed such that the nine HMO beds that are available presently may be taken off the market and the properties redeveloped.

The unintended consequence of the HMO increases will result in the number of affordable beds in the community being reduced.

Questions for the agenda of the meeting

I understand that the HMO department is trying to cover its costs,

- A) Please can you issue me with a breakdown of the operating costs ( past and projections) of the department in years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
- B) Please can you issue you me with a revenue breakdown from fees received in years 2007,2008,2009,2010,2011
- C) Besides the swingeing increase in fees please can you show with clear Illustrations some past fiscal responsibility i.e. reduced management personnel office space etc

I am a retired Chatered Engineer with many years engineering experience and would like to address the board about the consequences of raising fixed costs that cannot be passed on,(bankruptcy) and give some well needed advice on how the private sector manages budgets with fiscal responsibility.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Mockridge

**CC:** John Reynolds