

Press release

1 April 2008

Greedy fraudsters uncovered by Hackney Homes

Two fraudsters, who abused their Council tenancies while also owning homes in other boroughs, have been exposed following investigation by Hackney Homes' estate safety team.

The first case, a 3 bedroom property on the Wenlock Barn estate in Shoreditch has now been handed back to Hackney Homes after the judge ruled at Clerkenwell and Shoreditch County Court on 14 March that the tenant, a woman with two identities, be evicted.

The unlawful tenant, whose goes under two personas Lamén Jessu Dilla, and Ruth Dilla, had a Council tenancy in Greenwich and went on to present herself as homeless in Hackney. She subsequently was given a secured tenancy in the Wenlock Barn area. In the meantime she went exercised her Right to Buy on the Greenwich property.

Ms Dilla then sublet the Hackney property, whilst receiving full Housing Benefit. This matter is now under joint investigation with other agencies as a number other matters have now come to light.

The second case a 1 bedroom property at Vince Court in Shoreditch has been handed back to Hackney Homes after a Bow County Court judge granted outright possession.

The unlawful tenant Killie Mpopo had bought a property in Luton and subsequently sublet her flat. The fraud was discovered by the estate safety team after she had redirected her rent statement to an address in Luton.

Now that the matter has been investigated and has gone through the courts the property will be re-let to bona-fide tenants.

Chair of Hackney Homes Rupert Tyson said: "Thanks to the hard work of the estate safety team we can now re-let the homes to genuine families in need." He adds: "This should be a warning to anyone thinking about fraudulently taking public money and depriving someone in desperate need of a home – we will catch you."

Ends

Press queries to Chloe Goddard on 0208 356 3877 or email chloe.goddard@hackneyhomes.org.uk