



Letting agent charges out of control

Private tenants are being badly let down by a system that allows letting agents to operate completely unchecked, routinely ripping off tenants by imposing unjustified and excessive charges and providing a poor or non-existent service, a new report from Citizens Advice says today.

The national charity is calling on the government to extend recently-announced plans to regulate letting agents, saying these must include a ban on the additional charges tenants often have to pay letting agents on top of their rent, usually for carrying out tasks that are no more than the routine business of letting and managing a property.

It warns there is no time to lose when the private rented sector is growing and landlords are increasingly using agents to find tenants and manage their property.

Evidence collected by local bureaux contributes to such reports and Sevenoaks CAB is always anxious to hear from people experiencing difficulties so that effective action can be initiated.