



MUY IMPORTANTE

Subletting social homes a criminal offence from today, 15 October 2013

Social housing fraud will become a criminal offence from today, after a new law came into force.

Under the new law sub-letting will become a criminal rather than a civil offence, with a potential two year jail term.

Courts will also have the power to make an order forcing tenants to repay any profits made by sub-letting.

Tenancy fraud is believed to cost the public 1.8 billion pounds per year.

The Social Housing Fraud Act, which received royal assent in January, was brought into force today.

The G15 group of London's largest housing associations is offering sub-letting tenants a two month window in which they can return their keys with a promise that they will not face prosecution.

Kris Hopkins, junior housing minister, said:

For years, tenancy cheats have been able to carry on with their fraudulent activity, denying social homes to people in real need while facing little more than a slap on the wrist if they got caught.

Today's new powers will ensure social tenants found sub-letting their home will face the real threat of prison time and a fine, while social landlords will have the ability to recover the profits they make.