



Moonlight Robbery

Campaign to end the robbery of council tenants!

Email: info@moonlightrobbery.org.uk

Web: www.moonlightrobbery.org.uk

BRIEFING - August '08

Government says we live in 'subsidised housing', but council tenants actually subsidise other tax payers through our rents; this year, to the tune of £1.7 billion

How does this happen? Most of us assume that our rent is used exclusively to pay for the running cost of our homes: repairs, management (housing staff wages) and maintenance (things like caretaking). However, this year we are paying £1.7 billion more than councils are allowed to keep, to cover running costs. Government uses most of this money, to cover the cost of repaying loans used to buy land and build and improve our homes.

Since this Government has been in power, it has
robbed council tenants of around £17 billion

Why we shouldn't be paying off debt: As tenants, we do not own or benefit financially from the asset value of council housing. So when a council home is sold, Government rules ensure that most of the money from the sale is not reinvested in council housing. Government takes 75% of proceeds of right to buy sales and councils get 25%. Government spends its share on things which the tax payer should fund and many councils spend their share on items which should be paid for through council tax not rents.

Rent rises subsidise other tax payers: Since 2001, when the government introduced its national rent setting scheme, council tenants have been subjected to increasing rent rises (above the rate of inflation); deterring many from working and pushing them into claiming benefits. This year most tenants have had rent increases of around 2% above the rate of inflation

At the same time, even according to Government's own research, there
is a shortfall in funds to pay for the repairs, management and maintenance
of our homes This year that shortfall is £2.35 billion.

Bare-faced Robbery: To add insult to injury, this year, the Government plans to rob us of an additional £194 million (over and above debt re-payments). This particularly bare-faced robbery is set to double within 3 years

The Moonlight Robbery Campaign demands
an end to the robbery of council tenants.

- Our rents payments should be used exclusively for repairing, managing and maintaining our homes, not used to extract a hidden tax from which other tax payers are exempt.
 - The £17 billion robbed by Government since 1997 must be returned and reinvested in council homes.
-

Moonlight Robbery is a tenant led campaign supported by local, regional and national tenants federations