

# **Landlord Legal Expenses**

This insurance policy has been arranged on **your** behalf by Motorplus Limited t/a Coplus and is underwritten by Allianz Insurance plc. This cover is provided to **you** in return for payment of the premium.



# To make a claim: Call: 0333 043 1326

Email: cpclaims@coplus.co.uk

Address: Coplus Claims, Floor 2, Norfolk Tower, 48-52 Surrey Street, Norwich, NR1 3PA

Claims must be reported within 45 days after the date of event.

Please do not appoint your own appointed representative before we have accepted your claim. If you do so, we will not be liable for any costs incurred before we have agreed to them, even if we subsequently accept your claim.

# 24 hour Legal Advice Helpline:

If you require confidential legal advice about any personal legal matter please call 0333 241 3383 quoting the reference 'Landlord Legal'

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# Who does it cover?

This policy covers the individual, company, firm, partnership, management agent, association, or any other entity which owns or is responsible for the **property** shown on the **policy schedule**.

## **Key requirements**

All claims must be reported no later than 45 days after the date of event;

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Registered Office: Speed Medical House, Eaton Avenue, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 7NA.

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- Contact must be made with the **tenant** and any **guarantor** within seven days if any **rent** is overdue to establish the reason for the arrears;
- Where appropriate all statutory and contractual notices must have been served upon the tenant by you;
- The **property** must only be used for residential purposes;
- For no excess to be applicable under this policy a satisfactory tenant reference must have been carried out on each tenant and/or guarantor before the start of the tenancy agreement;
- For no excess to be applicable under this policy for long term tenants who have been in the property for over 12 months, and you are not undertaking a new tenant reference, there must have been no breaches of the tenancy agreement, no late rental payments in the last 12 months and you must not be aware of any future changes in financial circumstances;
- A tenancy agreement must be in place for the duration of this policy;
- The tenants must be over the age of 18 years.

## Your responsibility

You must take reasonable care to:

- a) supply accurate and complete answers to all the questions your broker may ask as part of your application for cover under the policy;
- b) make sure that all information supplied as part of your application for cover is true and correct;
- c) tell **your broker** of any changes to the answers **you** have given as soon as possible.

You must take reasonable care to provide information that is accurate and complete answers to the questions your broker ask when you take out, make changes to and renew your policy. If any information you provide is not accurate and complete, this may mean your policy is invalid and that it does not operate in the event of a claim or we may not pay any claim in full.

If you become aware that information you have given your broker is inaccurate or has changed, you must inform them as soon as possible.

This policy must be read together with **your** current **policy schedule**, Insurance Product Information Document and any endorsements or certificates. These items together form **your** contract of insurance.

## Legal advice helpline

Available 24 hours a day throughout the year to provide **you** with confidential telephone advice about any personal legal problem in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man or Channel Islands. A scheduled call back to **you** may be required during normal working hours subject to the complexity of the matter and/or the country in which **you** are resident.

To contact the helpline, phone: 0333 241 3383 quoting the reference 'Landlord Legal'.

## How to make a claim

In the event of a **claim**, please contact **us** within 45 days from the **date of event**, giving **us** as much information as **you** can about what has happened to bring about the **claim**.

Telephone: **0333 043 1326** Email: cpclaims@coplus.co.uk

Or **you** can write to **us** at: Coplus Claims Floor 2 Norfolk Tower 48-52 Surrey Street Norwich NR1 3PA

Our claims line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assist you.

In order for **us** to help **you** more efficiently, please quote 'Landlord Legal' in all communications. **We** will only be able to review **your claim** once **we** are in receipt of the full documentation and information.

In order to progress **your claim**, **we** will require documentation to prove **your** landlord requirements have been met and enable eviction of **your tenant**. This may include, but is not limited to:

- A copy of the tenancy agreement;
- A copy of the tenant reference(s);
- An up to date rent schedule;
- A copy of the guarantor referencing and agreements (where applicable);
- Copies of any notices and correspondence which has been exchanged between you and the tenant (and guarantor

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where applicable), for example, but not limited to, eviction notices, requests for payment of rent, etc;

- Confirmation that any deposit taken has been properly protected in accordance with the relevant legislation or deposit replacement scheme:
- Copies of bank statements showing rental payments received from the tenant;
- Copies of the Gas Safety Certificate and confirmation this was provided to the tenant at the start of the tenancy (where applicable);
- Copies of the Energy Performance Certificate and confirmation this was provided to the tenant at the start of the tenancy;
- Evidence that the How to Rent Guide has been issued to the tenant prior to the tenancy agreement (where applicable).

## **Important**

Please do not appoint your own appointed representative before we have accepted your claim. If you do so, we will not be liable for any costs incurred before we have agreed to them, even if we subsequently accept your claim.

## Our regulator and insurer

This insurance is arranged by Motorplus Limited t/a Coplus and underwritten by Allianz Legal Protection which is a trading name of Allianz Insurance plc.

Motorplus Limited t/a Coplus is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Allianz Insurance plc. Registered in England number 84638.

Registered office: 57 Ladymead, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1DB, United Kingdom.

Allianz Insurance plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Financial Services Register number 121849.

Details about the extent of their regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority are available on request.

## **Privacy Statement**

For full details of how we protect your privacy and process your data please read the Privacy Statement that accompanies this policy. The Privacy Statement can also be viewed online by visiting <a href="https://www.coplus.co.uk/data-privacy-notice">https://www.coplus.co.uk/data-privacy-notice</a>.

# **Allianz Insurance plc Fair Processing Notice**

We are Allianz Insurance plc, referred to as "we/us/our" in this notice.

For more information about how Allianz Insurance plc use your personal data, **you** can find a copy of the Fair Processing Notice at www.allianz.co.uk

Alternatively, **you** can request a printed version by calling 0330 102 1837, by email dataprotectionofficer@allianz.co.uk or by writing to the Data Protection Officer, Allianz, 57 Ladymead, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1DB.

# How to make a complaint

It is the intention to give **you** the best possible service but if **you** do have any questions or concerns about this insurance or the handling of a **claim you** should follow the Complaints Procedure below:

Sale of the policy:

Please contact your broker who arranged the Insurance on your behalf.

Claims:

If your complaint is about the handling of a claim, please contact:

The Quality Assurance Manager Coplus Floor 2 Norfolk Tower 48-52 Surrey Street Norwich NR1 3PA

Telephone: 0333 043 1326 Email: <a href="mailto:qtmail@coplus.co.uk">qtmail@coplus.co.uk</a>

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In all correspondence please state that your insurance is provided by Allianz Insurance plc.

If it is not possible to reach an agreement, **you** have the right to make an appeal to the Financial Ombudsman Service. This also applies if **you** are insured in a business capacity and have an annual turnover of less than €2million and fewer than ten employees.

You may contact the Financial Ombudsman Service at:

The Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Tower, London, E14 9SR.

Tel: 0300 123 9123

Email: complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk

The above complaints procedure is in addition to **your** statutory rights as a consumer. For further information about **your** statutory rights contact **your** local Citizens Advice Bureau.

If **you** have purchased the insurance policy online, **you** may also raise **your** complaint via the EU Online Dispute Resolution Portal at <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/odr/">http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/odr/</a>. This will forward **your** complaint to the correct Alternative Dispute Resolution scheme. For insurance complaints in the UK this is the Financial Ombudsman Service. However, this may be a slower route for handling **your** complaint than if **you** contact the Financial Ombudsman Service directly.

# **Financial Services Compensation Scheme**

If Allianz is unable to meet its liabilities **you** may be entitled to compensation under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Further information about compensation scheme arrangements is available at **www.fscs.org.uk**, by emailing **enquiries@fscs.org.uk** or by phoning the FSCS on 0800 678 1100 or 0207 741 4100.

## **Definitions**

The words and phrases listed below will have the same meanings wherever they appear in this policy. These words and phrases can be identified in bold throughout the policy.

Wording	Meaning
Any one claim	All <b>claims</b> or <b>civil proceedings</b> consequent upon the same original cause, event or circumstance.
Appointed Representative	The <b>panel solicitor</b> or <b>non-panel solicitor</b> , solicitor' firm, barrister or other suitably qualified person appointed or approved by <b>us</b> to act on <b>your</b> behalf.
Benefit(s)	Any housing benefits claimed by the <b>tenant(s)</b> , such as housing benefit or universal credit.
Broker	The company or third party who arranged this policy on <b>your</b> behalf.
Claim(s)	A claim under this policy following a breach of the <b>tenancy agreement</b> by the <b>tenant</b> or any other event that leads to a claim covered under this policy.
Civil Proceedings	Civil court, civil tribunal or civil arbitration proceedings, which are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.
Consequential Loss	Any costs that are directly or indirectly caused by the insured event which led to a <b>claim</b> unless specifically stated in this policy.
Date of Event	The date of the first breach of the <b>tenancy agreement</b> by the <b>tenant</b> or any other event which leads to a <b>claim</b> covered under this policy. Where there is more than one such event, the date of the first of these.
Deposit	The sum of money collected from the <b>tenant</b> and held by <b>you</b> or <b>your</b> agent in accordance with Section 213 of the Housing Act 2004 in respect of a <b>tenancy agreement</b> to which it applies to provide an indemnity for losses incurred by <b>you</b> arising from the <b>tenant</b> failing to perform their obligations set out in the <b>tenancy agreement</b> .
Dilapidations	Any repairs required or damage to the <b>property</b> , over and above general wear and tear, for which the <b>tenant</b> is liable in accordance with the <b>tenancy agreement</b> .
Excess	The amount specified in the <b>policy schedule you</b> must pay in respect of <b>legal costs</b> and <b>fees</b> in respect of <b>any one claim</b> before the <b>insurer</b> shall be liable to make any payment, being:  • Legal expenses – nil  • Eviction – nil

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<ul> <li>Rent Recovery - nil where you have obtained a positive tenant reference in respect of the tenant; or</li> </ul>
Rent Recovery - £200 where you did not obtain a positive <b>tenant reference</b> in respect of the <b>tenant</b> .
Any disbursement costs incurred by an <b>appointed representative</b> on <b>your</b> behalf in respect of services supplied by a third party. Disbursements may include, for example, barristers' fees (provided that the barrister is not acting under a conditional fee agreement or equivalent arrangement) or expert report fees.
The individual or organisation shown in the <b>tenancy agreement</b> that has received a satisfactory <b>tenant reference</b> and has provided a financial guarantee of the <b>tenant's</b> performance of their obligations under the <b>tenancy agreement</b> .
As a minimum requirement, these checks must include:
<ul> <li>a) A credit check obtained from a licensed credit referencing company showing no County Court Judgements in the immediate preceding three years, no outstanding County Court Judgements and no undischarged bankruptcies;</li> <li>b) A written employer's reference confirming the gross monthly salary and that the guarantor is in current and permanent employment. You must ensure that the amount confirmed as their gross monthly income is equivalent to at least three times the gross monthly rent;</li> <li>c) Where the guarantor is self-employed, confirmation from their accountant of the guarantor's gross monthly income or sight of most recent 3 months bank statements or self-assessment tax return showing income received. You must ensure that the amount confirmed as their gross monthly income is equivalent to at least three times the gross monthly rent;</li> <li>d) If the guarantor is retired, evidence that their income from pension(s) after deduction of normal living costs is at least two and a half time the monthly rent or that they have consistent savings in an account for at least 6 months of at least three times the monthly rent;</li> <li>e) Copies of two acceptable original forms of identification, one of which must be photographic identification.</li> </ul>
Allianz Insurance plc.
A detailed record of the <b>property's</b> fixtures, fittings and contents and their respective condition.
<ul> <li>a) Any professional legal fees and expenses that you are bound to pay reasonably incurred by the appointed representative;</li> <li>b) Any costs incurred by other parties that you become liable for in court, tribunal proceedings or under a settlement made with another party with the consent of the insurer but excluding any costs which you may be ordered to pay by a court of criminal jurisdiction or in adjudication proceedings other than the cost of the adjudicator.</li> </ul>
The maximum amount payable under this policy, as specified below:
Any one claim: £100,000 The total of all claims within the period of insurance: £500,000
An <b>appointed representative</b> appointed by <b>you</b> and approved by <b>us</b> to represent <b>you</b> in pursuing a <b>claim</b> which is not a <b>panel solicitor</b> .
If <b>you</b> decide to appoint a representative of <b>your</b> own choosing, they will be referred to within this policy as a non-panel solicitor. Please refer general condition 4. Appointed Representative of this policy.
A solicitor recommended by <b>us</b> to <b>you</b> in the event of a <b>claim</b> , to act on <b>your</b> behalf and provide assistance.
Any offer made to settle a <b>claim</b> , where blame is accepted or not, made by either party throughout the <b>claim</b> .
<ul> <li>To be accepted, the offer must:</li> <li>be in writing;</li> <li>call itself a Part 36 offer;</li> <li>be open for at least 21 days, when the offeror will pay the opponent's costs, if accepted;</li> <li>specify if the offer covers the whole claim, part of it, or an issue that arises in it and, if so, which;</li> </ul>

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	advise whether any counterclaim is factored in.
Period of Insurance	The period for which the <b>insurer</b> has agreed to provide this insurance, unless otherwise agreed by <b>us</b> this will be 12 calendar months from the inception date of this policy.
Policy Schedule	The schedule provided in connection with this policy which outlines the cover provided including reference to the <b>property</b> .
Property	Buildings owned by <b>you</b> or that <b>you</b> are responsible for, and land immediately surrounding them which are used solely for domestic residential purposes within the <b>territorial limits</b> , detailed in the <b>tenancy agreement</b> and which are declared on the <b>policy schedule</b> .
Proportionate	The reasonable estimate of <b>your appointed representative's legal costs</b> acting for <b>you</b> must not be more than the amount in dispute of the likely award of damages.
Reasonable Prospects	A 51% or greater chance that <b>you</b> will recover losses or damages (or obtain any other legal remedy that <b>we</b> have agreed to, including an enforcement of judgement), make successful defence or make a successful appeal or defence of any appeal in <b>your</b> pursuit of <b>civil proceedings</b> .
Rent Tenancy Agreement	The amount payable by the <b>tenant</b> to <b>you</b> as set out in the <b>tenancy agreement</b> .  An agreement to use the <b>property</b> which amounts to a property right between <b>you</b> and the <b>tenant</b> in relation to the <b>property</b> which is:
	<ul> <li>a) An Assured Shorthold Tenancy agreement as defined within the Housing Act 1998 (as amended); or</li> <li>b) A Company Residential tenancy (company let) created after 28th February 1997 where the tenant is a Private Limited Company (Ltd) or Public Limited Company (Plc) and the property is let purely for residential purposes to an employee of the tenant; or</li> <li>c) A written common law residential tenancy agreement created after 1st October 2010 between individuals where the rent is in excess of £100,000 per annum;</li> <li>d) For tenancies in Scotland, an Short Assured Tenancy or Assured Tenancy as defined in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 or a Private Residential tenancy agreement created after the 1st December 2017 as defined within the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.</li> </ul>
Tenant(s)	The individuals who has entered into a <b>tenancy agreement</b> with <b>you</b> , who are subject of the <b>tenant reference</b> and who occupy the <b>property</b> .
Tenant Reference	Checks carried out on the <b>tenant</b> before the commencement of the <b>tenancy agreement</b> or this policy.  As a minimum requirement, a tenant reference check must include:
	<ul> <li>a) A credit check obtained from a licensed credit referencing company showing no County Court Judgements in the immediate preceding three years, no outstanding County Court Judgements and no undischarged bankruptcies;</li> <li>b) A written employer's reference confirming gross monthly salary and that the tenant(s) are in current and permanent employment. You must ensure that the amount confirmed as their gross monthly income is equivalent to at least two and a half times the gross monthly rent; or</li> <li>c) Where the tenant is self-employed, confirmation from their accountant of the tenant's gross monthly income, or sight of most recent 3 months bank statements or self-assessment tax return showing gross income received. You must ensure that the amount confirmed as their gross monthly income is equivalent to at least two and a half times the gross monthly rent;</li> <li>d) Copies of two acceptable original forms of identification, one of which must be photographic identification.</li> </ul>
	Where the <b>tenant</b> is a company, a company reference must be carried out showing no County Court Judgements and the agreed <b>rent</b> must not be greater than 85% of the company's credit limit.
	Where the <b>tenant</b> has failed to meet the requirements of the tenant reference a <b>guarantor</b> must be sought who must meet the above requirements.
	In the event the <b>tenancy agreement</b> has been in place for greater than 12 months at the inception date of this policy such checks will not be required provided there have been no breaches of the <b>tenancy agreement</b> and no late payments in the last 12
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	months and <b>you</b> are not aware of any changes in the <b>tenant's</b> financial circumstances. <b>We</b> will require the <b>rent</b> schedule for the last 12 months showing confirmation that payments for <b>rent</b> have been received in accordance with the <b>tenancy agreement</b> .
	In the event that the <b>tenant</b> has been late in making any <b>rent</b> payments in accordance with the <b>tenancy agreement</b> , breached their <b>tenancy agreement</b> , has failed to make any payment of <b>rent</b> within the preceding 12 months, or <b>you</b> are aware of changes in the <b>tenants</b> financial circumstances before the inception date of this policy <b>you</b> must undertake a new tenant reference check on the <b>tenant(s)</b> prior to the inception of this policy.
Territorial Limits	The United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.
You/Your	The individual, company, firm, partnership, management agent, association, or any other entity which owns or is responsible for the <b>property</b> shown on the <b>policy schedule</b> , which may include at your request, any of your employees including a director or partner.
We/Our/Us	Motorplus Limited t/a Coplus.

# Cover

What is covered?	What is excluded?
The insurer will indemnify you in respect of legal expenses incurred in the recovery of an undisputed debt for rent where the dispute and legal proceedings or rent arrears occur within the territorial limits and the claim is notified to us within 45 days of the date of event. Subject to:  a) All rent debt recovery cases must be notified to the insurer within 45 days of the due date of the unpaid rent payment; b) The amount in dispute must exceed a minimum of £1,000 for the claim to be activated after the claim has been reported; c) All reasonable measures to recovery the rent have been exhausted; d) The insurer selecting the most appropriate means of recovery.	<ul> <li>The insurer will not pay claims arising from or associated with</li> <li>a) More than two separate rent debt recoveries for any one tenant in any one period of insurance;</li> <li>b) Amounts in dispute below £1,000;</li> <li>c) Claims reported to us after 45 days of the due date of the unpaid rent payment which causes the total amount of unpaid rent to exceed the £1,000 minimum amount in dispute;</li> <li>d) Claims occurring outside the territorial limits;</li> <li>e) Any excess payable.</li> </ul>

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Section 2 Property Legal Disputes		
What is covered?	What is excluded?	
The insurer will indemnify you against legal costs and fees incurred in any dispute or civil proceedings occurring within the territorial limits made by or brought against you:	The <b>insurer</b> will not pay <b>claims</b> arising from or associated with:  a) The pursuit or defence of <b>claims</b> relating to the payment or non-payment of any tax and/or mesne profits or any	
a) In respect of the physical possession of the <b>property</b> provided that where appropriate all statutory and contractual notices have been correctly served on the <b>tenant</b> by <b>you</b> . Please refer to general condition 2 - property legal disputes & rent recovery claims for details of which notices may be applicable.	review of <b>rent</b> or service charge. b) Any dispute relating to <b>rent</b> , tax planning or building regulations or decisions or compulsory purchase orders or any actual, planned or proposed works by or under the order of any government or public or local authority. c) Any dispute arising from the negotiation, review or	
<ul><li>b) In respect of the terms of the tenancy agreement relating to the use or maintenance of the property.</li><li>c) In respect of actual or alleged negligence or nuisance</li></ul>	renewal of a <b>tenancy agreement</b> or the subsequent purchase of the <b>property</b> whether or not such purchase is completed.	
originating from the <b>property</b> . d) In respect of non-payment of service charges due from a	<ul><li>d) Any actual or alleged harassment of you or a tenant.</li><li>e) A dispute over subsidence, heave or landslip howsoever</li></ul>	
tenant provided the amount in dispute being more than £1,000 and any legal costs and fees being limited to 75% of the amount in dispute.	caused. f) A contract dispute other than where the contract is a tenancy agreement.	
e) In respect of actual or alleged <b>dilapidations</b> to the <b>property</b> subject to the amount in dispute being more than £1,000 and any <b>legal costs</b> and <b>fees</b> being limited to 75% of the amount in dispute.	<ul> <li>g) Any planning application, review or decision.</li> <li>h) Claims occurring outside the territorial limits.</li> <li>i) Claims not reported within 45 days of the date of event.</li> </ul>	
f) Under the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 or as amended; provided that <b>you</b> will suffer financial loss if <b>you</b> fail to pursue or defend the <b>claim</b> or <b>civil proceedings</b> .		

What is covered?	What is excluded?
The insurer will pay net salary or wages, less any amount payable by the court for you or any of your directors, partners or employees or of your letting managing agent, for the time off work to attend any court or tribunal hearing within the territorial limits as a:  1. Witness for you at the request of the appointed representative; or 2. Defendant in civil proceedings for which the insurer has accepted the claim.	<ul> <li>Any amount exceeding £100 per person per day subject to a maximum of £1,000 for any one claim.</li> <li>Claims not reported within 45 days of the date of event Claims occurring outside the territorial limits.</li> </ul>
<b>We</b> will calculate the amount payable based on the duration of any valid absence from work, based on an eight hour day and calculated to the nearest half day. One day's pay will be calculated as 1/250 <sup>th</sup> of the employee's total annual pay. Where an employee works part-time, the amount payable will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.	

# **General conditions**

The following conditions apply to all sections of this policy. **You** must comply with them where applicable for **your** insurance to remain in full force and effect.

# 1. Tenancy Agreement

- a) The initial **tenancy agreement** must be for a fixed period of at least 6 months, except in Scotland where the scope of the **tenancy agreement** falls under the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016;
- b) The **property** must be entirely residential and remain solely for residential use;
- c) The **tenant** must be aged 18 years or over;
- d) You must not allow the tenant into possession of the property until;
  - i) The tenancy agreement has been signed by all parties; and

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- For no excess to be applicable under this policy a satisfactory tenant reference has been obtained before the start of the tenancy agreement; and
- iii) All necessary statutory pre-grant notices to the tenant have been issued; and
- iv) The first month's rent has been received in cash or cleared funds; and
- v) For no **excess** to be applicable under this policy a satisfactory **guarantor** reference and signed agreement have been obtained (where applicable).
- e) During the tenancy agreement you must:
  - i) Keep full and up to date rental records; and
  - ii) Not allow the **tenancy agreement** to be transferred to any other individual or organisation.

# 2. Property Legal Disputes & Rent Recovery Claims

We will only agree to cover your claim if you have correctly issued and served the appropriate statutory and contractual notices within 14 days from the date you can legally service the relevant notice on the **tenant** that may apply in the country that the **property** is located in.

In England and Wales the following notices may be applicable:

- Section 8 Housing Act 1988

   Possession Notice
- Section 21 Housing Act 1988 Notice to Quit

If you need assistance with this process please call the Legal Advice Helpline on 0333 241 3383.

#### 3. Claims

- a) You must give notice to us within 45 days of the date of event;
- b) In the event of malicious damage by the **tenant**, **you** must give notice to the police as soon as possible after **you** have become aware of it and obtain a valid crime reference:
- c) You will take all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of a claim and to prevent or minimise legal costs and fees wherever possible. Your duty to take precautions includes (but is not limited to) ensuring that no action that could bring about a dispute is taken by you or any other person associated with you;
- d) In order for any **claim** to be accepted under cover section 2 Property Legal Disputes of this policy, **we** must deem that there are **reasonable prospects** of success and that the **claim** is **proportionate**. Authorisation will need to be requested in writing in respect of all **legal costs** and **fees** to **us** before they are incurred;
- e) All legal costs and fees are subject to an independent assessment to ensure that they have been incurred reasonably;
- f) All legal costs, and fees and any other costs may only be incurred with our prior consent.
- g) You must take all steps necessary to assist in the recovery of any claims payment, legal costs and fees from a third party where appropriate and where you are able to do so;
- h) You will not enter or offer to enter any negotiation to settle the claim without our prior written approval to do so;
- i) You will not unreasonably withhold consent for your appointed representative to make an offer to settle the legal action;
- j) If an offer of settlement (which may include a **Part 36 offer**) is made that **we** or the **appointed representative** would deem fair and **you** do not accept it, the **insurer** will not be liable for any further costs incurred;
- k) You will not withdraw from any legal action without our permission to do so;
- I) In some circumstances, where the **we** decide it is appropriate, **we** may elect to pay **you** the sum of damages that **you** are seeking and then end or not begin **civil proceedings**, and the **insurer** will not be liable for any further costs incurred:
- m) You must cooperate with us, providing all necessary information and assistance to us as required;
- n) We reserves the right to:
  - i) Take over any claim or civil proceedings at any time and conduct them in your name;
  - ii) Negotiate or settle any claim or civil proceedings on your behalf;
  - iii) Contact you directly at any point concerning your claim;
- o) In respect of Cover Section 1 Rent Recovery and Section 2 Property Legal Disputes **we** will only pay **claims** where **you** will suffer financial loss if **you** fail to pursue or defend the **claim** or **civil proceedings**.

# 4. Appointed Representative

- a) When you advise us of a claim, we will recommend an appointed representative from our panel of representatives to assist you and act on your behalf. If for any reason you are unhappy with our choice of representative, we will recommend another;
- b) You may appoint your own choice of representative, however if you choose to do so, this policy will not cover expenses over and above the costs that our panel would charge us in equivalent circumstances. For your information, this means that we would consider the seriousness of the claim and the location and class of representative that you choose. The hourly rate is currently limited to a maximum of £125 + VAT. We reserve the right to assess each case on its merits, and may agree to pay additional fees if we feel the situation warrants it. This will remain entirely at our discretion;
- c) The **appointed representative** will have direct contact with **us** and must cooperate fully with **us** always. **You** must cooperate with **your** representative, providing all necessary information and assistance to them as required;
- d) If for any reason we feel that your own choice of representative lacks the skills to act adequately on your behalf, we reserve the right to decline to fund legal expenses on that basis. We will give you notice of this in writing and the opportunity to appoint an alternative representative;

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e) Any **non-panel solicitor** that **you** appoint must sign **our** standard terms of agreement and adhere to all of its terms. **You** agree to **us** having access to **your appointed representative's** file relating to **your claim**. **You** will be considered to have provided express consent to **us** or **our** appointed agent to access the file for auditing, quality and cost control purposes.

#### 5. Cancellation

If **you** decide that for any reason, this policy does not meet **you**r insurance needs then please return it to **your broker** within 14 days from the day of purchase or the day on which **you** receive **your** policy documentation, whichever is the later. On the condition that no **claims** have been made or are pending, **we** will then refund **your** premium in full.

**You** may cancel the insurance cover after 14 days by informing **your broker**, however no refund of premium will be payable. The **insurer** shall not be bound to accept renewal of any insurance and may at any time cancel any insurance document by giving 30 days' notice in writing where there is a valid reason for doing so. A cancellation letter will be sent to **you** at **your** last known address. Valid reasons may include but are not limited to:

- a) Where the insurer reasonably suspects fraud.
- b) Non-payment of premium.
- c) Threatening and abusive behaviour.
- d) Non-compliance with policy terms and conditions.
- You have not taken reasonable care to provide accurate and complete answers to the questions we or your broker ask.

If the **insurer** cancels the policy and/or any additional covers **you** will receive a refund of any premiums **you** have paid for the cancelled cover, less a proportionate deduction for the time the **insurer** has provided cover.

Where the **insurer's** investigations provide evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, the **insurer** may cancel the policy immediately and backdate the cancellation to the date of the fraud or the date when **you** provided **us** with incomplete or inaccurate information. This may result in **your** policy being cancelled from the date **you** originally took it out and the **insurer** will be entitled to keep the premium. If **your** policy is cancelled because of fraud or misrepresentation, this may affect **your** eligibility for insurance with the **insurer**, as well as other insurers, in the future.

# 6. Counsel's Opinion

Where reasonable and necessary, the **insurer** may obtain at **our** own cost, advice on prospects for **your claim** from an independent barrister. This will be in the event that there is a dispute on the prospects of success for **your claim**, between **your** choice of **appointed representative** and **our panel solicitors**.

# 7. Arbitration Clause

A dispute between **you** and **us** may arise, which may be referred to an arbitrator, who shall be either a solicitor or a barrister who **you** and **we** agree on in writing. If an arbitrator cannot be agreed then an arbitrator will be appointed by the authorised body identified in the current arbitration legislation. The decision of the arbitration shall be final and binding on both parties and he or she will decide who should pay the costs of the arbitration. If costs are awarded against **you**, they are not covered under this policy. This arbitration condition does not affect **your** rights to take separate legal action.

If a disputed **claim** is not referred to arbitration within 12 months of **your claim** being turned down, **we** will treat the **claim** as abandoned.

# 8. Fraudulent Claims

You must not act in a fraudulent way. If you or anyone acting for you deliberately:

- fails to reveal or hides a fact likely to influence whether we accept your proposal, your renewal, or any adjustment to your policy;
- fails to reveal or hides a fact likely to influence the cover we provide;
- makes a statement to us or anyone acting on our behalf, knowing the statement to be false;
- sends us or anyone acting on our behalf a document, knowing the document to be forged or false;
- makes a claim under the policy, knowing the claim to be false or fraudulent in any way;
- makes a claim for any loss or damage you caused deliberately or with your knowledge; or
- if your claim is in any way dishonest or exaggerated.

**We** will not pay any benefit under this policy or return any premium to **you** and **we** may cancel **your** policy immediately and backdate the cancellation to the date of the fraudulent **claim**. **We** may also take legal action against **you** and inform the appropriate authorities.

# 9. Statutory Regulations

In all matters relating to the performance of this insurance contract, it is the responsibility of both **you** and **us** that **we** both respectively comply with all Acts of Parliament and with all orders, regulations and bylaws made with statutory authority by Government Departments or by local or other authorities. The cost of meeting the requirements of this clause will be payable by **you** and **us** in **our** own rights respectively.

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#### 10. Severability Clause

If any term of this contract of insurance is to any extent invalid, illegal or incapable of being enforced, such term will be excluded to the extent of such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability, all other terms will remain in full force and effect.

#### 11. Proportionality

Where an award of damages is the only legal remedy to a dispute and the cost of pursuing **civil proceedings** is likely to exceed the value of any such award of damages, the most the **insurer** will pay in respect of **legal costs** and **fees** is the value of the likely award of damages.

## 12. Acts of Parliament

All references to Acts of Parliament in this policy shall include the equivalent laws in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands and shall include any subsequent amendments, re-enactments or regulations.

#### **General exclusions**

The insurer will not pay claims arising out of or in connection with:

- 1. Any dispute:
  - a) arising during the first 90 days of the first period of insurance, if the tenancy agreement commenced before the inception date of this policy; or
  - b) arising during the first 90 days of the first **period of insurance**, unless it can be evidenced that **you** previously held comparable legal expenses cover with another insurer immediately prior to inception of this policy;
- 2. Any claim not notified to us within 45 days of the date of event;
- 3. Any claim for amounts in excess of the limit(s) of indemnity;
- 4. Any **claim** where the **date of event** is outside the **period of insurance** and which has or which **you** knew or ought reasonably to have known may give rise to a dispute by or against **you**;
- 5. Any **claim** where the **deposit** is not properly protected in accordance with the relevant legislation or deposit replacement scheme:
- 6. Any claim made, brought or commenced outside the territorial limits;
- Legal costs and fees incurred whilst you are bankrupt, in administration or in receivership, or if you have entered into a
  voluntary agreement with creditors;
- 8. The pursuit or defence of the payment or non-payment of any tax;
- 9. Claims relating to subsidence, ground heave, landslip, mining or quarrying;
- 10. Any planning application review or decision;
- 11. The defence in **civil proceedings** against **you** arising from:
  - a) Injury or disease;
  - b) Loss, destruction or damage of or to property (other than as specified in 'Sections of Cover'); or
  - Any tortious liability (other than as specified in 'Sections of Cover');
- 12. Fines or other penalties imposed by a court or tribunal;
- 13. If at the time any **claims** are made by **you** under this policy there is any other insurance covering the same liability, the **insurer** will not be liable to pay or contribute more than their proportion of the **claim**;
- 14. Any **claim** arising out of the deliberate, conscious, intentional or negligent disregard by **you** of the need to take all reasonable steps to avoid and prevent **claims**, **civil proceedings** or disputes;
- 15. Any dispute with Government or Local Authority departments concerning the imposition of statutory charges;
- 16. Disputes between you and any parent or subsidiary company or partner;
- 17. Any dispute between you and the insurer, the appointed representative, us or your broker;
- 18. Any **claim** arising out of breach or alleged breach of confidentiality or passing of whether related to intellectual property or not or the use or alleged use of any intellectual property;
- 19. Any **claim** relating to alleged violence or dishonesty on **your** part;

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- 20. Any legal costs and fees incurred in any appeal proceedings, unless:
  - a) we agreed to cover the original claim;
  - b) we deem that the matter has reasonable prospects; and
  - c) we are notified of the decision to appeal at least 7 days before the deadline to appeal.
- 21. Judicial review;
- 22. Any **claim**, **consequential loss**, legal liability or any loss or damage to property directly or indirectly caused by or contributed to by seepage, pollution or contamination of any kind;
- 23. Any legal costs and fees which you should or would have had to incur irrespective of any dispute;
- 24. Any direct or indirect consequence of war, civil war, invasion, acts of foreign enemies (whether war is declared or not), rebellion, revolution, insurrection, military or usurped power, or confiscation, nationalisation, requisition, destruction of or damage to property by or under the order of any government, local or public authority;
- 25. Any direct or indirect consequence of terrorism as defined by the Terrorism Act 2000 and any amending or substituting legislation;
- 26. Any direct or indirect consequence of:
  - Irradiation, or contamination by nuclear material; or
  - The radioactive, toxic, explosive or other hazardous or contaminating properties of any radioactive matter; or
  - Any device or weapon which employs atomic or nuclear fission or fusion or other comparable reaction or radioactive force or matter;
- 27. Any consequence, howsoever caused, including but not limited to Computer Virus in Electronic Data being lost, destroyed, distorted, altered, or otherwise corrupted.

For the purposes of this policy, Electronic Data shall mean facts, concepts and information stored to form useable communications, interpretations, or processing by electronic or electromechanical data processing or other electronically controlled hardware, software and other coded instructions for the processing and manipulation of data, or the direction and manipulation of such hardware.

For the purposes of this policy, Computer Virus shall mean a set of corrupting, harmful, or otherwise unauthorised instructions or code, whether these have been introduced maliciously or otherwise, and multiply themselves through a computer system or network of whatsoever nature.

# Other formats

If you require this document in any other format please do not hesitate to contact us.

# **Telephone calls**

Please note that for our mutual protection telephone calls may be monitored or recorded.

## Fraud prevention, detection and claims history

In order to prevent and detect fraud **we** may at any time:

- share information about you with other organisations and public bodies including the police;
- check and/or file your details with fraud prevention agencies and databases, and if you give us false or inaccurate
  information and we suspect fraud, we will record this.

We and other organisations may also search these agencies and databases to:

- help make decisions about the provision and administration of insurance, credit and related services for you and members of your household:
- trace debtors or beneficiaries, recover debt, prevent fraud and to manage your accounts or insurance policies;
- check **your** identity to prevent money laundering, unless **you** provide **us** with other satisfactory proof of identity;
- undertake credit searches and additional fraud searches.

# Renewal procedure

The term of your Landlord policy is for 12 months. The **period of insurance** will end exactly 12 months after inception unless **you** renew **your** policy. If **you** wish to renew this insurance policy please contact **your broker** who will be able to discuss **your** requirements.

# **Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999**

The terms of this policy are only enforceable by the named insured. A person who is not a named insured has no rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any term of this policy but this does not affect any right or remedy of a third party, which exists or is available apart from that Act.

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# Your agreement with others

This contract of insurance is personal to **you** the policyholder, and the **insurer**.

We will not be bound by any agreement between you and your appointed representative, or you and any other person or organisation.

You may not assign any of the rights under this policy without the insurer's express prior written consent.

#### Governing law

Unless some other law is agreed in writing, this policy is governed by English law. If there is a dispute, it will only be dealt with in the courts of England or of the country within the United Kingdom in which **your** main residence is situated.