



Judicial Review IV : Anti-social behaviour - Northern Ireland

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF RESIDENTIAL LANDLORDS

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Landlords win significant Human Rights victory in Belfast

The landlords of Northern Ireland, supported by the National Federation of Residential Landlords (NFRL), have won a significant victory in Belfast High Court, where the requirement for landlords to take action to prevent or deal effectively with the behaviour of their tenants and their tenants' friends in the locality, was thrown out as being an unreasonable obligation on landlords under Human Rights legislation.

Under those regulations, landlords were being expected to “police” tenants and their friends, both in the property and in the locality. The 32-page judgement has now made it very clear that dealing with anti-social behaviour in society is a matter for local authorities and the police – not private landlords.

Mike Stimpson, Chair of NFRL, commented: This is a significant victory, which will benefit all landlords in the United Kingdom and sends a clear message to Government: “Do not place unreasonable regulations on private landlords, backed by criminal sanctions, and expect to get away with it. Landlords will no longer tolerate such actions. Anti-social behaviour in one form or another affects all members of society. Dealing with it must fall towards the police and local authorities. Government must ensure that those bodies carry out their responsibilities and not be allowed to unfairly pass them on to private landlords”.

BBC report:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/4338269.stm

Yorkshire Residential Letting Agents Landlords' Association – March 2005