



## Fiona's story – losing her home to a holiday let.

On 2nd Feb Fiona got a letter from her landlord telling her that he had sold the property to a new landlord, but not to worry as the new landlord had given assurances that nothing would change except the rent might rise slightly. Fiona's rent hadn't risen for a while, so she accepted that and thought little more about it.

However, on 10th Feb 2022 Fiona received a letter from her new landlord informing her that her rent was being increased from £550 per month to £875 per month. In the same letter she was given 3 options.

1. Accept the new rent and stay in her home.
2. Do not accept the new rent and move out immediately.
3. Do not accept it, do not leave and I would be evicted.

She was told that if she did accept the new rent, that she could pay 6 months in advance with a discount of 2.5%, or she could pay 12 months in advance with a discount of 5%, of course Fiona had the money for neither option, her savings were limited, that is why she was renting in the first place.

Fiona didn't reply to this ultimatum straight away and on the 14th Feb 2022, she was issued with a Section 21 and told she had to be out by 14th April 2022. The reason she was given for having to vacate her home was that the landlord wanted to bring in NHS staff that wanted to work in the area and would need somewhere to stay.

She left the property, but no NHS staff materialised. The next thing she noticed was her former home being advertised on Airbnb and then subsequently Booking.com where it currently is advertised as a holiday let.

Fiona was one of 7 families that lived in the building who were evicted. She has a new place to live but is struggling at the moment, as her new flat is a lot smaller than her old home and the rent is now almost £100 a month more.

She was told her home would not be used as holiday lets, but the landlord simply lied. He obviously had every intention of turning her home into a holiday let.

Fiona now sees her old home constantly advertised on the What's on Combe Martin Web page and she feels constantly reminded of the way she has been treated. It was Fiona's home for 5 years and she was really happy there. Her life totally disrupted so a greedy developer can profit from the holiday boom.