

Possible Wording for a Standard Letter to Housing Associations

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: GP Reports

The provision of reports from a doctor for patients applying for housing/re-housing is not included in a doctor's terms and conditions of service. It is therefore, by definition, a private service. There is an agreement with local authorities for the provision of such reports. Locally, Council has made their own arrangements for medical assessments, but if a report is required from a doctor a fee is payable.

Housing Associations have persistently refused to pay the appropriate fee for the provision of private medical records for their applicants. This practice has, in the past, made representations to Housing Associations about this issue. We do not accept the spurious reasons offered by Housing Associations regarding their non-payment of private fees and the matter remains unresolved.

It appears that no application for housing/re-housing is complete without an accompanying supportive medical report. You will understand that this places great demand on our time and is to the detriment of our NHS work. It is also costly to the partners of this practice to provide stationery and secretarial time out of their own pockets.

We have, therefore, decided to discontinue the provision of this private service to you on an entirely charitable basis. From now on, no private medical reports will be issued to your applicants without payment of the appropriate fee. We have currently set this fee at £..

When a patient presents with a request for a report on their health to a Housing Association, we will issue them with the accompanying form. It outlines the situation to the patient and contains a consent form for the release of information to you for the patient to complete. You will then have the option of accepting the applicant's account of their medical problems at face value or writing to us for a report. If you choose the second option, you should return the patient's consent to us, along with the fee of £..

We trust that this outlines our new procedure to you fully. If you have any queries please contact (name) on (telephone number)

Yours faithfully

Possible Wording for a Patient Letter/Consent Form

Dear Patient

Re: Medical Reports to Housing Associations

The provision of medical reports to Housing Associations is not covered by the National Health Service. It is a private report for which a fee is payable.

Please complete the lower section of this form and return it to the Housing Association with your application. They will then decide whether or not they wish us to supply them with a report.

To: Housing Association

From: of

I am applying for housing/re-housing with your Association and request that the following medical factors be taken into consideration:-

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My doctor has indicated that he/she is prepared to issue a private medical report to you if you require it. The fee for the provision of this service is £.. and payment must accompany the request. My consent to disclosure of such information is given below.

I of

hereby consent to a doctor at

disclosing information about my health to Housing Association regarding my housing application.

Signed: Date: