

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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FINE FOR HMO LANDLORD

A Bexley landlord has been fined £5,000 for providing a grossly undersized kitchen for his tenants. Nathan Beck was also ordered to pay £1,377.12 costs and a victim surcharge of £170 at the hearing at Bexley Magistrates' Court earlier this week (22 May).

Mr Beck of Heathland Road, London N16 5NL is the owner of premises at 47 Winifred Road, Erith. The property was recently occupied as a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

Following a visit from Bexley's Environmental Health Team, Mr Beck was advised to extend the kitchen or reduce the number of occupants so one room could be converted into a kitchen. Despite then being given a number of chances to address the kitchen size, no changes were made to the property. An Improvement Notice was served under the Housing Act 2004 which was not complied with.

Bexley has seen a rapid growth in the number of HMOs in the last two years. Former family homes have been converted to accommodate some of the most vulnerable members of society.

To help address poor housing and control HMOs in the Borough, the Council has recently completed a consultation on introducing selective and additional licensing schemes in the Borough. The additional licensing scheme would cover smaller Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and the selective licensing scheme all privately rented accommodation in the DA8 and SE28 post codes. The licensing scheme will help to raise the standard of rented properties, offer accreditation for landlords and reduce anti-social behaviour in those areas.

For more information on the proposed scheme please visit www.bexley.gov.uk/rentitright

Please contact: Jane Parson on 020 3045 4868
communications@bexley.gov.uk

