



Department for Communities and Local Government

Mr Nick Scrivens
The Abraham Support Action Group
c/o: 8 Beaumont Buildings
Martlett Court
London
WC2B 5SF

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

16 October 2012

Dear Mr Scrivens,

Thank you for your letter of 18 September, covering a petition addressed to the Prime Minister, about the housing situation of Mr Abraham Siklawi, of 8 Beaumont Buildings, Martlett Court, London, WC2B.

As you may appreciate, Ministers are unable to respond personally to all the correspondence they receive and your letter and the petition has been passed to me for reply. The Department for Communities & Local Government has responsibility for landlord and tenant legislation in the private rented sector, and this response refers accordingly.

We cannot offer legal advice or comment on individual cases. But I hope that these general remarks are helpful. It appears that Mr Siklawi's accommodation was linked to the terms of his employment. In such cases, the ending of the employment will also mean the ending of a tenancy. This is a commercial and contractual arrangement between the employer and employee and is not something with which the Government would seek to interfere.

In the first instance I would suggest that Mr Siklawi seeks advice on his position from a local Citizens' Advice Bureau who can offer free, independent and impartial advice on legal, financial and other problems. Information is available at:
<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> or you can call them on 08444 111 444.

If you fear Mr Siklawi is about to be made homeless, he could contact Shelter who provide a free telephone helpline, 'Shelterline' 0808 800 4444. Their advisers will also be able to give him expert, independent advice.

Ultimately, if Mr Siklawi is unable to find suitable accommodation, he is entitled to obtain support and help from his local authority.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Stallebrass