

Loreburn Group

Reactive Repairs Policy





Policy	Reactive Repairs Policy					
Version reference	2					
Approved by	MC LET X MT					
Date of approval	November 2024					
Review period	3 Yearly or as legislative or substantive changes occur					
Review due	November 2027					
Policy champion	Head of IHR					





1. Purpose of this Policy

- 1.1 Loreburn Housing Association is committed to providing an exceptional repairs service. This service will meet the needs of our customers, ensure we provide homes that are well maintained that offer a warm, safe and healthy living environment.
- 1.2 The Repairs Policy ensures that all contractual and statutory obligations are met and has been developed to reflect good practice in relation to reactive repairs and complies with the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standardsfor Social Housing (EESSH) and the Scottish Housing Quality Standards(SHQS).
- 1.3 The guidance set out within this policy will help to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risk to our tenants from any reported repairs and associated danger.
- 1.4 The policy will assist Loreburn to meet the Corporate Plan objectives, with a particular focus on providing a high-quality maintenance service which delivers high levels of tenant satisfaction.
- 1.5 The Management Committee recognise the commercial benefits of a quality repairs service that provides our tenants with safe and secure homes.
- 1.6 This policy is accompanied by several working procedures.

2. Aims & Outcomes of this Policy

- 2.1 Reactive repairs can be described as day-to-day repairs, which cannot be left for cyclical or planned maintenance programmes without posing: a threat to the safety, health or security to the customer, the deterioration of the building or the landlord's repair obligations.
- 2.2 The specific objectives of the Reactive Repairs Policy are to achieve the following:
 - 2.2.1 Provide homes that are well maintained, offer a warm, safe, and healthy living environment for occupants and that remain highly sought-after properties.
 - 2.2.2 To provide an efficient and effective reactive repairs service that is responsive to the tenant's needs first time.
 - 2.2.3 Deliver a quality repairs service that is coupled with an exceptional tenant experience and high tenant satisfaction.



- 2.2.4 Clear effective communication with tenants, partners and stakeholders with regards to timescales, responsibilities and standards.
- 2.2.5 Maximise the lifetime of the property and protect Loreburn Housing Association's investment.
- 2.2.6 Compliance with legislation, regulatory guidance and good practice, including Health and Safety, Risk Management and Sustainability.
- 2.2.7 Imbed continuous improvements through the setting and monitoring oftargets, quality standards and the implementation of good practice ideas.
- 2.2.8 Achieve Value for Money and compliance with Procurement legislation, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and internal guidance documents.
- 2.2.9 The procurement of materials and sub-contractors will comply with procurement legislation, financial regulations, standing orders and internal guidance documents.
- 2.2.10 Provide effective supply chain management for materials based on quality, availability, and value for money.
- 2.2.11 Ensure effective systems are in place for monitoring and recording information about stock condition and repairs trends. This information shall underpin the direction of the planned maintenance programme, improvement works and the financial planning process and design of new build properties.
- 2.2.12 The In-House repairs team will aim to ensure that quality materials are used in our homes by operatives and sub-contractors and inline with the Loreburn Design Guide.
- 2.2.13 Loreburn Housing Association will make appropriate provision in their Annual Accounts for repairs, maintenance and energy efficient as agreed with Management Committee.

3. Reactive Repairs Service

3.1 The reactive repairs service is delivered by Loreburn's In-House Repairs team. They carry out a wide range of duties relating to reactive repairs. This includes but is not limited to, repair work, scheduling of works, inspection of requested repairs, post inspection of repairs, monitoring of repair and servicing work;



budget control; performance management and general administration of the service.

- 3.2 The tenant handbook and Loreburn's website contain information on Loreburn and the tenant responsibilities in relation to repairs. Publications such as the newsletter and Social media platforms will also provide more general and practical information, including contact details and service performance statistics.
- 3.3 Loreburn Housing Association endeavours to make the reactive repairs service fully accessible to all who use it; and, as far as possible, responsive to the individual needs of our tenants. We offer a range of ways for repairs to be reported and an appointment system so we can visit at a time that is most convenient for you.
- 3.4 Repairs can be reported via the dedicated repairs telephone number, by letter, the Loreburn website, ChatBot or to a staff member e.g. Neighbourhood Officer.

Telephone	01387 321 300
Letter	Loreburn Housing Association, 7 Gifhorn
	House, Shakespeare Street, Dumfries, DG1 2JB
Website	https://loreburn.org.uk/repairs/
Neighbourhood Officers	01387 321 300

3.5 The repairs service's general operating hours are Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. Outlined below is the appointment options.

Monday to Friday	All Day
Monday to Friday	School Run (9.30am to 14.30)
Monday to Friday	AM
Monday to Friday	PM

- 3.6 The In-House repairs team shall aim to implement a flexible approach to agreeing to requests for specific appointments to have repair work carried out.
- 3.7 The repairs team also offer an emergency/make safe service. This is available out with normal working hours. This is also available during public holidays.

Monday to Friday	5pm to 8am
Saturday	24 Hours
Sunday	24 Hours
Monday	12am to 8am

Within the category of reactive repairs Loreburn Housing identifies three work 3.8 Page | 3



categories that determine status and response; as well as the right to repair scheme outlined in section 4.

Repair Type	Repair Description	Target
		Respons
		e
		Time
	Repairs that if left unattended	
Emergency Repair	would constitute danger to life	5 Hours
/Out Of Hours	or limb or result in serious	
	damage to the fabric of the	
	property. In the case of out of	
	hours, a make safe service shall	
	be provided, with operatives	
	returning within the agreed	
	priority timescale to resolve	
	the issues fully.	
	Repairs that if left unattended	
Lugant Danain	for a lengthy period of time	
Urgent Repair	would infringe or interfere with thenormal occupancy and	U
	use of the property and cause	Days
	an adverse effect on the fabric	
	of the building.	
	Repairs that can reasonably	
Routine	wait for a period of time to be	20
	addressed without causing	Working
	significant inconvenience to	Days
	the	
	customer.	
Dia ang di	Planned works 'Planned works'	00.14
Planned	are large- scale works	-
	organised to deal with	Days
	problems which have been	
	reported that require	
	specialised trades / materials / more than one trade / more	
	than one day to complete /	
	insurance works and over the	
	value of £500.	
	These can include:	
	Structural repairs	
	 Replacing windows, doors, 	
	guttering	
	044401110	



	Flou	ising Association
	 Concreting works Drainage Landscaping to communal / shared areas These will also be regarded as a Complex Repair (see note below) 	
Non Repair Work (Emergency)	Repairs that have been reported that potentially if left unattended would constitute danger to life orlimb or result in serious damage to the fabric of the property. In the case of out of hours, a make safe service shall be provided. These repairs will be identified when operatives are on site. Example of non repair emergency work would be: • Key safes fitted • Forced Entry • Erecting signs for any danger • No credit in meters • Showing tenant how to operate heating	5 Hours
Non Repair Work (Non Emergency)	 Works that have been requested to be carried out by IHR from tenants or colleagues that does not constitute any of the above priorities. For example: Fitting of a noticeboard Planned forced entry Collection of hired equipment Inspection works 	90 Days

Complex Repairs:

There are many reasons why a repair may be classed as complex. We have provided a list below, which is not extensive, but shows some examples of what a complex repair could



- Special or bespoke materials (e.g windows or doors) are needed, these are only supplied by specific manufacturers and the manufacture/delivery period is a long process.
- Specialist work is required where investigation works are necessary which could potentially include cases of damp/mould, drainage issues, structural repairs or floor coverings. Any repair that requires two trade/paired working attendance will also be classed as complex.
- Any repair scheduled to take longer than a day to complete will be classed as complex.
- The repair is a one off major component replacement or a repair that is over the value of £500 for example roofing works.
- The repair involves a specialist type of heating/power source such as solar panels, MVHR or air source heating.
 - 3.8.1 Loreburn provide an Out of Hours Repairs service. This is a make safe service and covers the same criteria as an emergency repair.
 - 3.8.2 The Out of Hours Service is available via telephone 01387321 300, calls will be directed to a call handling service who will advise and direct your call accordingly.

4. Right to Repair

4.1 Under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, Scottish secure tenants and short Scottish secure tenants have the right to have small urgent repairs carried out bytheir landlord within a given timescale. This is called the Right to Repair scheme.

Туре	Descriptio
	n
	The repair needs to be completed Within 1 working day
Right to Repair 1	following the date it was reported or inspected; examples
Right to Repair 1	include
	Total loss of electric power;
	Unsafe power or lighting socket or electrical fitting;
	Blocked flue to open fire or boiler;
	Toilet not flushing wherethere is no other toilet in the



	house;
	Insecure external window, door or lock;
	Total loss of electric power;
	Total or partial loss of gas supply;
	Loss or partial loss of space or water heating when no
	alternative heating is available;
	Blocked sink, bath or basin;
	Blocked or leaking foul drains, soil stacks or toilet pans
	where there is no other toilet in the house;
	Significant leaks or flooding from water or heating pipes,
	tanks, cisterns;
	Unsafe access to path or step
	The Repair needs to be completed within 3 working days
Right to Repair 3	following date it was reported or inspected; examples
	Partial loss of water supply;
	Loose or detached banister or hand rail
	Partial loss of electric power
	Unsafe timber flooring or stair treads
	The repair needs to be completed Within 7 working days
Right to Repair 7	following date it was reported or inspected; example
	Mechanical extractor fan in the internal kitchen or
	bathroom not working

- 4.2 Where a tenant reports a qualifying repair, the work must be completed within the maximum time stated providing that tenants can provide suitable access to the tradesperson.
- 4.3 The Scheduling team will make the tenant aware from an approved list if the repair reported qualifies under the right to repair.
- 4.4 The Right to Repair scheme gives the tenant the right to instruct an alternative contractor to carry out the work and send the invoice to Loreburn Housing Association providing that:
 - The work had not been completed within the maximum time allowed
 - Access times had been complied with
 - The tenant advises the company of its failure to complete the work before instructing the alternative contractor
 - The tenant uses a contractor from the organisation's listof contractors
 - The cost of any single qualifying repair does not exceed £350



- If the repair is not complete within the required timescales the tenant will be entitled to £15 compensation from Loreburn
- If an alternative contractor is instructed, they will have the same length of time to complete the repair that the main contractor had. If works are not completed with the required timescale the tenant will be entitled to £3 compensation per day up to a limit of £100
- 4.5 A tenant must inform Loreburn Housing Association when instructing an alternative contractor. If the conditions above have not been met the tenant will be recharged for the cost of the repair. Please refer to the Rechargeable Repairs Policy and Procedure.
- 4.6 The completion timescales will be made available on Loreburn's website. Tenant will be made aware if the repairs they are reporting falls into the qualifying repairs category. Further information of the Right to repairs scheme can be found <u>here</u>.

5. Repairs responsibilities

- 5.1 Loreburn Housing Association's responsive repairs practices are in accordance with all legal requirements. In addition to the repairing obligations imposed by statute, Loreburn Housing Association contractually elects to take responsibility for certain repairs.
- 5.2 Loreburn Housing Association will be responsible for the repairs and maintenance of the following items, except where the damage results from the willful damage or neglect of a tenant, their household, or persons invited onto the premises as stated in the Rechargeable Repairs Policy :
 - The roof
 - Drains, gutters and external pipes (excluding blockages caused by the tenant)
 - External walls, external doors and associated items such as lock and letter boxes
 - Window frames, windowsills, defective glazing (external painting and decorating will be done on a cyclical basis)
 - Internal walls, floors and ceilings, doors, doorframes, sash cords and window catches including décor spoil caused by repairs
 - Plasterwork (excluding minor cracks, holes and damage caused by the tenant)
 - Communal clothes poles and communal clothes driers where provided by



Loreburn Housing (except for ropes and lines)

- Boundary walls and fences (excluding any secondary fences erected by the tenant)
- Internal communal staircases and landings (including painting and decoration following a repair)
- Chimneys, chimneystacks and flues.
- Pathways, steps or other means of access (excluding garden paths)
- Make good any damage caused by acts of vandalism or criminal behaviour. Providing the police have been notified within 24 hours of the discovery. Where such damaged is caused by the tenant or a memberof the tenants household, in this case the tenant will be recharged for any remedial works required.
- **1.1.1** A full list of repairs responsibilities can be found <u>here</u>
- 5.3 Loreburn Housing will keep in proper working order any installations it has provided such as:
 - Space heating
 - Water heating
 - Sinks, Basins, baths, W/C bowls, W/C cisterns, water and waste pipes and showers (where fitted by LHA)
 - Electric wiring
 - Central heating systems
 - Door entry systems & Door bells
 - Extractor fans
 - Kitchen units and Kitchen worktops
 - Windows
 - Doors (external, internal, and communal)
- 5.4 Temporary space heating will be provided if a repair to a heating system cannot be completed during the first visit.
- 5.5 If the property is deemed unhabitable due to a repair being required, the customer may be decanted, as per the Planned and Emergency Decant Policy.
- 5.6 If the In-House Repairs team is not able to perform all the required works, subcontractors will be used to ensure the service is delivered in the necessary timescales.
- 5.7 Sub-contractors will also be used for tasks that are out with the capabilities of



the In-House Repairs Team such as roofing works and renewables.

- 5.8 Loreburn Housing Association will not be responsible or liable for any repair or replacement of any item which has been installed or fitted by the existing tenant.
- 5.9 As stated in the Tenancy Agreement tenants will be responsible for keepingthe home in a good and clean condition and in reasonable decorative order andshall keep any garage, shed or other structure associated with their tenancy ingood clean and reasonable condition.
- 5.10 Tenants will be responsible for carrying out any works or repairs for which they are liable by virtue of their duty to use the premises in a proper manner. Including, but not limited to:
 - Internal decoration
 - Minor plaster cracks/holes and patches
 - Lost or broken keys
 - Light bulbs and florescent tubes
 - Plugs and chains to sinks and baths
 - Toilet Seats
 - Whirly Gigs
- 5.11 Tenants will be responsible for taking reasonable steps to prevent frost damage to pipes.
- 5.12 Tenants will be responsible for the cost of remedying any act that might cause blockage to drains and/or sewers, or might cause fire damage to the premises in line with the Rechargeable Repairs Policy.
- 5.13 Tenants will be responsible for allowing access to premises for all agreed appointments failure to allow access will result in the repair being cancelled and a recharge raised in line with the Recharge Policy.
- 5.14 Tenants may also become liable for the cost of any other repair or replacement in addition to the above if it results from damage due to accident, neglect or a deliberate act by the tenant, their household, or persons invited onto the premises in line with the Rechargeable Repairs Policy.
- 5.15 Where possible, the In-House Repairs team will identify to a tenant reporting a repair whether or not the repair is the tenant's responsibility.
- 5.16 In some instances where a tenant fails to carry out a repair they are responsible for. Loreburn Housing Association may instruct the repair to be carried out and seek to recover the full cost from the tenant in line with the Rechargeable Repairs Policy.
- 5.17 Where possible, rechargeable repairs are paid for in advance however if payment is not received either in advance or on completion of the works the



Income Maximisation Policy will be applied and recovery action will be instigated.

- 5.18 Where the debt is uneconomic to pursue or there is no prospect of recovery, the debt will be written off in accordance with the Write-off Policy as set out inthe Income Maximisation Policy.
- 5.19 In cases where a write-off has occurred, the information will remain on the CRM system and could be reinstated for recovery should the tenant be located or re-apply for housing at a later date.
- 5.20 The repair and maintenance of some aspects of Loreburn Housing Association stock are the responsibility of third parties. Examples of these are outlined below:
 - Adopted Roads & Footpaths local authority
 - Mains Gas, Electric & Water National Providers
- 5.21 The In-House repairs team will co-operate with other agencies in reporting any works they become aware of the success of maintenance and repairs and assistin reducing any inconvenience to its tenants. Such as burst water or gas leaks from supply mains.
- 5.22 Loreburn will co-operate with other owners (private & shared) in the maintenance of common areas and maintenance charges. If an agreement can't be met the case will be referred to the Council to progress via a third partfactor.
- 5.23 Where maintenance works are required that involve a third party, Loreburn will offer expertise in diagnosing the issue(s), designing a specification, and procuring the works; at a cost of 5% of the project costs to each owner. Each owner will be liable for their share, which must be paid in advance before the works commence.
- 5.24 Where the tenant wishes to carry out any alterations or improvement to their home, they must obtain written permission and adhere to the conditions outlined for the for the proposed work as per the Alterations and Improvements Policy and tenancy agreement.
- 5.25 The Tenant must obtain and comply with all statutory permissions and standards as required for the proposed works.
- 5.26 Permission will not be withheld unreasonably and will not be withheld without explanation.
- 5.27 Any repairs required to an alternation and improvement are the responsibility of the individual that requested the work. Loreburn will assume responsibility for this on tenancy change unless it has been mandated to the incoming tenant.



6. Service Delivery & Monitoring

- 6.1 The In-house Repairs team is committed to providing exceptional customer experience at every opportunity and making every contact count.
- 6.2 We always put the tenant first with a strong commitment to positive and proactive ways of working from our approach to call handling to utilising dynamic scheduling systems.
- 6.3 The service will focus on the tenant needs and where possible adjust to the service delivery to ensure the tenants' needs are met.
- 6.4 The Loreburn Values and Behaviors and guiding principle will be discussed ona regular basis during In-House Repairs Team meeting to ensure understanding and adherence.
- 6.5 The use of the MGI templates and tools will be used to drive forward and improve customer experience.
- 6.6 Feedback on the repairs service will be gathered via a tenant satisfaction text message. This is issued via the scheduling system where possible, for each appointment carried out.
- 6.7 Call handling performance data shall be collected, and reported on a monthly basis to the Director of Property & Development.
- 6.8 The text survey and call handling monitoring is an effective system for monitoring performance on the front-line service, any issues identified will be the basis of staff development and training.
- 6.9 Information gathered from the tenant surveys will be used to feedback into the In-House Repairs team. The information may also be used to influence changes to procedure and policy going forward.
- 6.10 The In-House Repairs team monitors causes of complaints and dissatisfaction of service and uses the information and learnings gathered to identifying service improvements and changes to service delivery.
- 6.11 The learnings from complaints will also be used as training examples and staff development.
- 6.12 The In-House Repairs team will consult with tenants on key aspects of the reactive repairs service, its operational practices, and opportunities to influence service delivery. Performance will be measured against Strategic Performance Indicators that will be gathered monthly and presented to Management Committee on a quarterly basis.



7. Complaints

- 7.1 Loreburn has a commitment to valuing complaints and ensures the organisation benefits from feedback to identify areas for change or improvement.
- 7.2 Loreburn has a Complaints Policy which ensures there are robust and effective procedures in place for complaints to be properly managed and actedupon.
- 7.3 Anyone dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaint having exhausted Loreburn's complaints procedure has the right to refer the matter to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

8. Equality & Human Rights

- 8.1 Loreburn aims to ensure that equality, fairness, dignity and respect are central to the way we work and how we treat our customers. We support diversity and uphold equal opportunities in all areas of our work as an employer and service provider.
- 8.2 Loreburn will not discriminate against tenants, staff, visitors, suppliers or others based on their age, sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion or belief, marital status, pregnancy and maternity or gender reassignment (collectively referred to as 'protected characteristics' in the Equality Act 2010).

9. Risk Management

- 9.1 Loreburn has a Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Procedure. These documents set out how the organisation will manage risk as an integral part of its governance and management systems, ensuring risks are identified, evaluated and controlled effectively.
- 9.2 Identifiable risks arising from this policy will be monitored and managed by the internal processes set out herein and by regular review of this and all other associated policies and procedures, ensuring risks are mitigated and Loreburn complies with all legislative requirements and regulatory and best practice guidance.

10. Legislative Background

10.1 The legislative requirements include the need to comply with the range of health and safety duties imposed upon landlords; and various landlord responsibilities set out in the 2001 and 2010 Housing (Scotland) Acts. Various contractual terms are imposed via relevant tenancy, occupancy, and management agreements. The Association shall ensure all its practices accord with these terms and requirements.



- 10.2 In preparing this policy consideration has been given to:
 - The Scottish Secure Tenants (Compensation for Improvements) Regulations
 - The Scottish Secure Tenants (Right to Repair) Regulations 2002
 - The Gas Safety (Installations and Use) Regulations 1998
 - Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
 - Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
 - IEE Wiring Regulations 18th Edition
 - Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974
 - Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1999
 - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
 - Scottish Housing Quality Standards 2015
 - Energy Efficiency Standard in Social Housing
 - Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement and Short SSTA
 - Occupancy Agreement
 - Constructions (Design & Management) Regulations 2015
 - Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
 - Confined Spaces Regulations 1997
 - Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998
 - Work at Height Regulations 2005
 - Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
 - Data Protection Act 2018
 - 10.3 **The Scottish Social Housing Charter** this policy reflects Loreburn Housing Associations commitment to the Scottish Social Housing Charter, specifically:

Equalities:

Social landlords perform all aspects of their housing services so that every tenant and other customer has their individual needs recognised, is treated fairly and with respect, and receives fair access to housing service.

Communication:

Social landlords manage their businesses so that tenants and other customers find it easy to communicate with their landlord and get the information they need about their landlord, how and why it makes decisions and the services it provides.

Tenancy Sustainment:

Social landlords ensure that tenants get the information they need on how to obtain support to remain in their home; and ensure suitable support is available, including services provided directly by the landlord and by other organisations



Value for Money:

Social landlords manage all aspects of their businesses so that tenants, owners and other customers receive services that provide continually improving value for the rent and other charges they pay.

11. Associated Policies & Information

- Planned Maintenance Policy
- Cyclical Maintenance Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Rechargeable Repairs Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Aid and Adaptations Policy
- Alternation and Improvements Policy
- Adverse Events Policy
- Customer Excellence Strategy
- Planned and Emergency Decant Policy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Void Management Policy
- Contractor Management and Performance Policy
- Building Standards
- Lone Working Policy
- Risk Flag Policy
- Asbestos Policy
- Vehicles & Occupational Driving Policy
- Design Guide
- Electrical Safety Policy
- Emergency Procedures
- Environmental Policy
- Gas Safety Policy
- Control of Noise at Work Policy
- Control of Vibration Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Hazardous Substances Policy
- Manual Handling Policy
- Personal Protective Equipment Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Work Equipment & Workplaces Policy
- Legionella Policy
- Lifting Operations (LOLER) Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Working at Height Policy
- Waste Management Policy



12. Responsibilities Chart

12.1 The responsibilities chart on Page 13 illustrates the responsibilities of all staff pertaining to this policy:



Responsibilities	Boar d/ CEO	LET	Director of Property and Developm ent	Head of In- House Repairs	Superviso rs & Data Performa nce Officer	Operati ve & Schedul ers
To set the policy and direction with regards to reactive repairs and voids		 ✓ 				
Ensure the approach meets the requirements of the SHR Charter	\checkmark					
To set performance indicators and repairs timescales		\checkmark				
Leading the In House Repairs Service			\checkmark			
Day to day operation of the policy and actions				✓	\checkmark	✓
Policy Champion				\checkmark		
Ensure effective and clear communication with customers				~		
Take lead on decision making and reporting and update EMT quarterlyon performance				~		
Carry out monthly operational liaison meeting with the contractors					✓	
Working with P&C arrange appropriate training			✓	✓		
Working collaboratively with Management Team to ensure performance targets are achieved			~	 ✓ 	✓	



Ensure complaints feedback is used to improve service	~	✓		
Ensure policy is reviewed annually or as necessary		✓		
Ensure adherence to E&D guidance	\checkmark	\checkmark		
Adherence to RAMS			\checkmark	\checkmark

13. Policy Review

- 13.1 The Policy Champion is the Head of In-House Repairs
- 13.2 The Policy Champion is responsible for completing the Health and Safety Assessment and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Assessment Checklist.
- 13.3 This policy will be reviewed by the Policy Champion every 3 years or sooner as required due to legislative or substantive change.