

## **HOUSING ALLOCATION APPEALS PANEL**

At a Meeting of the housing Allocation Appeals Panel held within Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1998.

**Present:** Councillors Andrew White (LAB), George Cairney (LAB), Duncan Mills (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), James Flynn (LAB) and John Wailes (SNP).

**Attending:** Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor.

**Apology for Absence:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Margaret McGregor (SNP).

### **Councillor Andrew White in the Chair**

#### **PROCEDURES**

The Panel agreed to adopt the procedure set out in a note which had been submitted for their consideration.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Panel approved the following Resolution:-

“That under Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act”.

#### **HOUSING ALLOCATION APPEAL**

The Appellant was present and was represented by Robert MacKinnon of The Law Centre, The Department of Social Work and Housing Services was represented by Stuart Robertson, Solicitor.

Mr MacKinnon explained that the Appeal was against the decision of the Department of Social Work and Housing Services not to award social needs points to the Appellant. The Appellant was living in a Council house with his former partner and was seeking social needs points on the ground that his relationship with his partner had broken down.

Mr MacKinnon lodged a number of productions and made a statement on behalf of the Appellant. He and the Appellant were then questioned by Mr Robertson and members of the Panel.

Mr Robertson presented the case for the Department of Social Work and Housing Services, calling as a witness Margaret Brannan, Accommodation Officer. After giving evidence Ms Brannan was questioned by Mr MacKinnon and members of the Panel. Evidence was also given by Cy Neil, Housing Manager, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven.

Mr MacKinnon and Mr Robertson made brief closing statements and thereafter both parties withdrew from the Meeting.

After the Panel had deliberated the matter in private, both parties were re-admitted to the Meeting and advised that the Appeal had not been upheld.