

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

25th July 2007

Fifteen months for bad behaviour

A woman from Droylsden who sang the Clash hit "Should I stay or should I go?" at the top of her voice has been given a record prison sentence.

Janet Bailey discovered District Judge Osborne's answer was a sentence to go to prison for 15 months – the longest custodial sentence ever handed out in a New Charter action to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Bailey of Kings Walk, Droylsden had previously served four months of an eight month prison sentence for breaching an injunction restricting her behaviour. Tameside County Court heard that on the day of her release in April this year, she committed a breach. Another 17 breaches were recorded over the following two months.

Bailey had telephoned the emergency services claiming she had doused herself in petrol and was about to set fire to herself. Both police and fire services had attended her home to find it was a malicious hoax.

In another incident, Bailey waved a photograph of a graveyard at a member of staff, threatening her that's where she – and the Group's Chief Executive – would be going.

Breaches recorded late at night and before dusk catalogued abusive and insulting language, loud music, and motorcycles being ridden around the vicinity of her flat.

Bailey failed to attend the court hearing, but the judge was satisfied that she had been served notice. He heard witness evidence from three neighbours as well as two Tenancy Enforcement Officers from New Charter. He found all 18 breaches proved, and said that Bailey had flagrantly breached the injunction. He concluded that only a substantial custodial sentence would be appropriate and sentenced the Defendant, in her absence, to 15 months imprisonment.

New Charter's Deputy Chief Executive Martin Frost said: "Psychiatric reports before the Court confirmed Bailey's behaviour was almost wholly attributable to her use of amphetamines as a stimulant. This is not an excuse the Court accepted. We owe it to our many good tenants to take action against the few who blatantly have no respect for the neighbourhood."

The matter does not end with the jail term. New Charter will seek possession of Bailey's flat at a hearing on Thursday this week.



NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £48million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association recently, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. Janet Bailey of 20 Kings Walk, Droylsden, date of birth 01.07.1974.
3. Bailey was subject to an Injunction Order dated 10th August 2006. The terms of the Injunction Order forbid her from:
 1. Engaging or threatening to engage in conduct causing or likely to cause a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to any person residing in, visiting or otherwise engaging in a lawful activity in the locality of Kings Walk, Droylsden.
 2. Harassing any person residing, visiting or otherwise engaging in any lawful activity within the locality of Kings Walk, Droylsden.
 3. Using abusive, insulting or threatening language or behaviour towards any such person within the locality of the Property.
 4. Playing loud music at the Property, 20 Kings Walk, Droylsden which can be heard from the outside of the Property or in neighbouring Properties.The injunction is in force until December 2007.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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