

BBC 2 Radio - 03:00 AM GMT

TVEyes - BBC Radio 2

March 28, 2023

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Section: U.K. NATIONAL RADIO

Length: 593 words

Body

Speech to text transcript:¹

and you have a top week I will see you next time with another hour of music to make your day it is radio two on the BBC found up and the smart speaker and 88 91 previously News at 4 o'clock this is as important ministers are due to outline plans to find permanent accommodation for more than 8000 Afghan refugees, many of them worked alongside UK forces before the Taliban seized Control but are still stuck in hotels, critics say. Refugees could be left homeless. Here's our home editor Mark Easton, The government is to announce a 40 million £ fund to help around 8200 Afghans find permanent homes and jobs with a further 200 million £ for local authorities. On top of an existing Afghan support fund but some councils have expressed concern that families will be given a take-it-or-leave it offer of accommodation with Afghans who turn it down, being told to present themselves as homeless.

It suggested the refugees will be given 3 months to be Kate their hotels as part of a staggered process of relocation. Police in the us city of Nashville, say, a former student who killed 3 children and 3 staff at a private school had carefully planned the attack. Police say Audrey. Hale, who was 28 and was killed by officers had left behind a manifesto which suggested there were also going to be shooting at other locations President Biden has called on Congress to act on gun control measures. The new SNP leader hands a youth F is expected to be elected. Minister of Scotland later. There'll be a vote in the Parliament at Holyrood there have been more protests in cities. In Israel, even though the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has postponed his controversial reforms to the judicial system gave Freeman from a Jewish News service based in the US says many protesters don't trust Mr. Netanyahu, one of the main organisers protest of physics Professor actually said, you know, I actually think it has attracted to disrupt the protest and to weaken us and in response, that I was going to push my people to keep practising more more housing campaigners are warning that the police often don't understand the law when it comes to protecting tenants from harassment or illegal eviction. The charity shelter says there's a big disparity between the number of cases being reported and the number of people convicted the national police chiefs council says most private tenancy disputes the civil in nature, but the police should be contacted if there are criminal actions. This man was attacked by people working for his landlords. I was so scared and the night could go out of the room I restate inside their own Are you could do the toilet. Only at night. The middle of the night I do in the daytime I used an important for to you in it why the somebody's that outside so I could. I was so scared us like this and they're going to attack.

¹ This copy is computer generated. Text will vary in accuracy due to speaker dialect and audio quality issues.

Making his former landlord didn't respond to our request for comment. two people were cautioned for the attack, the owner of Twitter Elon mask has announced the more features are being put behind a paywall, from the middle of next month. Only verified accounts will be able to vote in polls, BBC News. It's 3 minutes past 4 I don't Thank you very Hello Hello good morning my board Alex to with days Monday stand, what are you up to this morning copy feeling good, whatever it is a fabulous show on the way music and Zara Larsson and you really for coming up. This is why Wyn Evan the

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Residents in village bought by landlord couple launch protests against huge rent hikes

Express Online

March 25, 2023 Saturday 6:36 PM GMT

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Length: 648 words

Byline: Richard Ashmore

Highlight: Landlords Lisa Walsh, 30, and husband Chris, 35, bought the entire Welsh village of Aberllefenni for £1million and had asked residents to pay up to 60 per cent higher rents.

Body

Residents of a Welsh village bought for £1million by a landlord husband and wife are **protesting** over huge rent increases they say are forcing them out of homes they have lived in for decades. The ramped-up rents at a time of a cost-of-living crisis mean some people in the village of Aberllefenni, north Wales, say they could be made “homeless”.

Village owners Lisa Walsh, 30, and husband Chris, 35, run the firm Walsh Investment Properties, which bought the settlement in Gwynedd, in November last year.

All 16 **houses** in the former slate-mining village close to the Snowdonia National Park are owned by the couple who grew up in the area, the MailOnline reports.

The paper reports Mrs Walsh has posed for photos showing a luxury hotel in Las Vegas on social media, as well as shots of the Greek island of Santorini.

But for residents of the historic village spending money has become a problem as some claim they cannot afford their new rental rates. Sara Lewis, 55, a mother-of-two, said she had lived in her home for 22 years and said a 26 per cent increase to her rent could make her “homeless”.

Ms Lewis, who suffers from emphysema and needs oxygen, said she applied to the local Gwynedd Council to meet a “£250 shortfall” she now has in paying her rent but had been refused.

She said: “I don't have any savings and cannot work because I have severe emphysema and need oxygen at all times. The council are being heartless and have caused be so much stress that it is making me ill.

“When I received the phone call, I was in tears. They are making me homeless and do not care.”

Ms Lewis has now mounted a daily “sit-in” **protest** against the increases. Another resident Brian Kügler, 70, said his rent increase from £380 to £595 a month meant he had just £3 left over for food.

Residents in village bought by landlord couple launch protests against huge rent hikes

He said: "I am really bl**** angry at the council and the landlord. How can the landlord put the rent up by so much? How can that be right?"

It's reported Walsh Investment Properties has since reduced Brian's rent to £550 a month. When the firm acquired the village a number of Section 21 no fault **eviction** notices were issued.

Latest company accounts show that Walsh Investment Properties had assets of around £4m in 2022, up from £1.5m the previous year, but profit figures are not available.

READ MORE: Highland cows attacked by off-leash dog in 'distressing' incident at Scots park

Aberllefenni community councillor John Pughe Roberts told the BBC said he believed the rent increases were intended to force tenants to "move out".

He said: "Some people who live in the **houses** are very vulnerable and are going to find it difficult to find the money to pay the difference."

Mr Walsh told MailOnline that he wanted to reassure the tenants. He told the site: "We have given them all peace of mind that we are going work with them to make them stay in their homes.

"We don't want anyone to move out. We have no plans to turn them into holiday lets or sell to them.

"They have been living in properties where rents are unsustainable and we have raised the rent to a fair amount, which is still massively below market value. Someone could have bought all those properties and **evicted** them. We do not plan to do that.

"We have lowered the rents from what was initially proposed by the agent, who used to manage the properties, and now because we in-**house** manage them, the rents have been reduced down rents off-setting the management fees we were charged."

Mr Walsh said his company had recently fully refurbished one of the 16 homes and agreed a rent of £750-a-month.

A spokesman for Gwynedd council said: "We are committed to supporting any individual facing difficulties as a result of the **housing** crisis. All applications for Discretionary **Housing** Funding presented to **us** are assessed by our benefits team as a matter of urgency."

DON'T MISS: King Charles's visit to France and Versailles banquet risked 'echoes of French revolution'

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IT'S A ' RIGHT,' MR. MAYOR Fury for not backing Housing Court slowdown amid tenant att'y shortage

IT'S A ' RIGHT,' MR. MAYOR

Fury for not backing Housing Court slowdown amid tenant att'y shortage

Daily News (New York)

March 28, 2023 Tuesday

1STAR Edition

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Section: NEWS; CS; Pg. 11

Length: 746 words

Byline: Chris Sommerfeldt new york daily news

Highlight: Protests (main) could increase as aide to Mayor Adams (I.) didn't back bill that would slow Housing Court proceedings amid uptick in tenants without lawyers in eviction cases.

Body

A top attorney in Mayor Adams' administration faced waves of criticism from City Council members Monday after refusing to offer support for a bill that would slow down Housing Court proceedings amid a recent uptick in New Yorkers going without legal representation in eviction cases.

Under the city's "Right to Counsel" law, tenants facing eviction in the five boroughs are supposed to be guaranteed free legal representation in Housing Court. The free representation is typically provided by public defender groups contracted by the city government.

But a confluence of factors - including public defender staffing shortages and a surge in eviction filings - has resulted in thousands of tenants appearing in court without representation because there aren't enough attorneys to meet the demand.

Against that backdrop, Councilman (D-Manhattan) Shaun Abreu introduced a resolution last month calling on the state Legislature to pass a bill that would require courts to pause any eviction case in which a tenant can't secure representation. Under the bill, a case could only resume once an attorney is assigned to represent the tenant.

In a Council oversight hearing Monday morning, Abreu asked city Social Services Department lawyer Raniece Medley, whose Office of Civil Justice oversees the Right to Counsel program, to commit support for his resolution on behalf of the Adams administration.

But Medley declined to, saying only that the resolution remains "under review" by Adams' team. Medley also said she could not provide data on how many tenants are currently in eviction proceedings without attorneys, but vowed that the administration remains committed to providing "universal access" to legal representation in Housing Court.

Medley's dodge infuriated Abreu, who noted that the administration has had over a month to review his measure since he introduced it Feb. 16.

"I feel gaslit," Abreu told Medley. "We should not shy away from the fact that there is a crisis right now, and that there is a demand that is not being met."

IT'S A ' RIGHT,' MR. MAYOR Fury for not backing Housing Court slowdown amid tenant att'y shortage

Brooklyn Councilman Lincoln Restler, a Democrat who is chairman of the Council's Progressive Caucus, said he shares Abreu's "extreme frustration" and asked Medley again if the administration believes an eviction case should move forward even if a tenant doesn't have a lawyer.

"The administration is not prepared to answer that," she replied.

Restler said Medley's demurral made her "complicit" in what he described as the Adams administration's exacerbation of the city's homelessness crisis.

"I am very disappointed by the lack of information today, and I feel like City Hall sent over sacrificial lambs to get beat up," he told Medley and two of her deputies who also testified at the hearing. "Failing to take hard positions on critical issues [is] causing and driving homelessness. ... This was very disappointing."

Pressure on Right to Counsel providers started to build in January 2022, when the state's pandemic-era eviction moratorium expired, prompting hundreds of landlords in the city to file a torrent of eviction claims at the same time.

Though Medley did not share up-to-date data, the state Office of Court Administration released statistics this year showing that Right to Counsel attorneys had to decline to represent more than 10,000 eviction defendants in the city between March 2022 and this past January due to overbearing workloads. An additional 12,000 defendants received only "limited" representation in the same time frame, according to the data.

As first reported by the Daily News last week, the city's six major public defender groups are urging the mayor and the Council to increase their funding levels by at least \$425 million in this year's city budget so that they can staff up to meet the demand for Right to Counsel representation.

The funding boost request came after Adams' first budget proposal kept city spending on public defender groups effectively flat.

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, a former Council member who co-authored the bill that first established Right to Counsel in the city in 2017, testified at Monday's hearing that the real-life implications of tenants going without legal representation in Housing Court are dire.

Pointing to data that show 86% of tenants who receive representation are able to stay in their homes, Levine said protecting Right to Counsel must be "a key component of our strategy to combat homelessness."

"We need the administration on record to support this," he added.

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