

Flatmates Flow Navigation Fix - Technical Report

Issue Overview

Problem: In the Residential Flatmates flow, clicking "Next" from the Location tab incorrectly navigated to `/properties/list/residential/flatmates/rental` instead of the correct `/properties/list/residential/flatmates/flatmate_details`.

Impact: Users in the Flatmates flow were seeing rental-specific form fields instead of flatmate-specific ones, causing confusion and potential data loss.

Root Cause Analysis

The issue was found in `StepNavigation.tsx`, which contains the logic for the Next/Previous buttons. This component has its own navigation system that was operating independently from the form navigation hooks.

Key problems identified:

1. **Missing Flow Detection:** The `getPropertyType()` function didn't detect the Flatmates flow
2. **Missing Flow Steps:** The `getFlowSteps()` function had no step sequence for Flatmates
3. **Navigation Logic Inconsistency:** Multiple components had their own navigation logic

Original Problematic Code:

```
// Determine property type from URL - MISSING FLATMATES CASE
const getPropertyType = () => {
  const urlPath = window.location.pathname.toLowerCase();
  if (urlPath.includes('pghostel')) {
    return 'pghostel';
  } else if (urlPath.includes('sale') || urlPath.includes('sell')) {
    return 'sale';
  } else {
    return 'rent'; // Flatmates flow was incorrectly defaulting to 'rent'
  }
};
```

```
// Get the correct flow steps - MISSING FLATMATES STEPS
const getFlowSteps = () => {
  const propertyType = getPropertyType();

  if (propertyType === 'pghostel') {
    return ['room_details', 'location', 'pg_details', 'features', 'review', 'photos'];
  } else if (propertyType === 'sale') {
    return ['details', 'location', 'sale', 'features', 'review', 'photos'];
  } else {
    return ['details', 'location', 'rental', 'features', 'review', 'photos'];
  }
};
```

The Solution

The fix involved adding proper detection and handling for the Flatmates flow in the StepNavigation component:

1. Enhanced Flow Detection

```
// Enhanced property type detection from URL
const getPropertyType = () => {
  const urlPath = window.location.pathname.toLowerCase();

  // Check for flatmates flow first (new case)
  if (urlPath.includes('flatmate')) {
    console.log('Detected FLATMATES flow from URL');
    return 'flatmates';
  } else if (urlPath.includes('pghostel')) {
    // Other cases remain the same...
```

2. Corrected Flow Steps

```
// Get the correct flow steps for the current property type
const getFlowSteps = () => {
  const propertyType = getPropertyType();

  switch(propertyType) {
    case 'flatmates':
      // Flatmates flow
      return ['details', 'location', 'flatmate_details', 'features', 'review', 'photos'];

    case 'pghostel':
```

```
// Other flows remain the same...
```

3. Special Case Handling

```
// Enhanced next button handler with special case for flatmates flow
```

```
const onNextClick = () => {  
  try {  
    // CRITICAL FIX: Special case for flatmates flow location step  
    if (window.location.pathname.toLowerCase().includes('flatmate') &&  
        currentStepId === 'location') {  
  
      console.log('CRITICAL FIX: Detected Location step in Flatmates flow');  
  
      // Extract the base path for flatmates flow  
      const basePath = window.location.pathname.match(/(.*)\/location/)?.[1];  
  
      if (basePath) {  
        // Form the correct next URL  
        const nextUrl = `${basePath}/flatmate_details`;  
  
        // Use navigate with replace to avoid back button issues  
        navigate(nextUrl, { replace: true });  
        return; // Exit early  
      }  
    }  
  }  
  
  // Normal flow for other cases...
```

Testing and Verification

The fix was tested by:

1. Navigating to the Location tab in the Flatmates flow
2. Clicking the "Next" button
3. Verifying that navigation correctly went to the flatmate_details page instead of rental

Lessons Learned & Recommendations

1. **Single Source of Truth:** Navigation logic should be centralized rather than duplicated across different components and hooks.

2. **Complete Flow Handling:** When adding new flows, ensure all components that handle navigation are updated.
3. **Explicit Flow Paths:** Make flow paths explicit rather than relying on defaults.
4. **Debugging Tools:** Add proper logging to facilitate troubleshooting of navigation issues.
5. **Refactoring Opportunity:** Consider refactoring the navigation system to use a unified approach rather than having duplicate logic in both hooks and UI components.

Summary

The issue was fixed by adding appropriate detection and handling for the Flatmates flow in the StepNavigation component. This ensures that users in the Flatmates flow correctly navigate from the Location tab to the Flatmate Details tab when clicking "Next".