



Bridgerent UK Landlord Compliance Guide 2026

**Your Complete Reference to Property Management
Regulations, Safety Standards, and Legal Best
Practices in the Private Rented Sector.**

**Helping landlords across Leeds and Manchester
stay compliant, confident, and informed.**

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Message from our Managing Director

At Bridgerent, we believe that property management goes beyond transactions; it's about trust, responsibility, and lasting relationships. The UK rental market is evolving rapidly, and compliance has become the foundation of ethical, successful property management. This guide reflects our commitment to helping landlords navigate new legislation with confidence and clarity. By combining transparency, innovation, and care, we aim to make compliance simple and accessible for every landlord we serve. Bridgerent exists to bridge property and people, and we do that best through knowledge, integrity, and service.

— **Abdulhakeem Buhari**

Managing Director, Bridgerent Property Management

Chapter 1: (Introduction): Why Compliance Matters

Being a landlord in the UK isn't just about collecting rent; it's about running a regulated business with clear legal responsibilities. Every tenancy agreement carries obligations designed to protect both you and your tenants, from safety standards to deposit protection and fair fees.

At Bridgerent, we understand that keeping up with changing regulations can be overwhelming. That's why we've created this guide: to help landlords, investors, and property managers navigate the essentials of UK rental compliance with confidence.

Compliance is more than ticking legal boxes. It builds trust, protects your investment, and creates a stable, professional relationship with your tenants. By ensuring your property meets every requirement, from gas safety certificates to GDPR compliance, you reduce risk, avoid fines, and maintain your property's long-term value.

Did you know?

Non-compliant landlords can face penalties of up to £30,000 or even be banned from letting in the UK.

At Bridgerent, compliance isn't an afterthought; it's part of our service's promise. Every property we manage is audited, updated, and monitored to meet the highest legal and ethical standards.

Want to ensure your property is fully compliant? Contact Bridgerent for a free property compliance check.

Chapter 2: The Legal Framework for UK Landlords

Understanding the Laws That Protect You and Your Tenants

The UK rental sector is built on a complex framework of legislation designed to ensure fair, safe, and transparent tenancies. As a landlord, staying informed is not optional, it's essential for protecting your property, your tenants, and your income.

Below are the core regulations and reforms shaping landlords' responsibilities in 2026:

1. The Landlord and Tenant Act (1985)

This act establishes the fundamental obligations of landlords to maintain the structure, safety, and essential utilities of their properties. It requires that installations for gas, electricity, and water are kept in good repair, ensuring every property is both safe and habitable.

2. The Tenant Fees Act (2019)

A landmark piece of legislation designed to make renting fairer and more transparent. The Act prohibits most upfront charges to tenants — allowing only essential payments such as rent, deposits, and limited permitted fees (e.g., for lost keys or late rent).

3. The Deregulation Act (2015)

This Act strengthened tenant protections by setting rules for the proper service of Section 21 notices and preventing retaliatory evictions. It also made deposit registration deadlines mandatory, ensuring tenants' funds are safeguarded through approved deposit schemes.

4. The Renters' Rights Act (2025)

The Renters' Rights Act 2025 represents the most significant reform in the UK's Private Rented Sector in decades. It fundamentally reshapes how landlords and tenants interact, shifting the balance toward transparency, accountability, and tenant stability.

Need help interpreting the new Renters' Rights Act or Section 8 reforms? Contact Bridgerent's compliance team today.

Key Changes You Should Know:

- **Abolition of Section 21 'No-Fault' Evictions:** Landlords can no longer remove tenants without a valid reason. All evictions must now rely on defined and strengthened Section 8 grounds, such as selling the property, landlord or family occupation, or serious rent arrears.
- **New Periodic Tenancy Model:** All tenancies now start as rolling agreements, giving tenants greater security while maintaining landlords' right to reclaim their property for legitimate reasons.
- **Enhanced Possession Grounds:** Landlords can regain possession for; Selling the property (Ground 1A), Moving in themselves or for a close family member (Ground 1), Persistent serious rent arrears (Grounds 8, 10, 11). In these cases, tenants are protected during the first 12 months, and landlords must provide at least four months' notice.
- **Rent Regulation and Fairness:** Rent increases are limited to once per year via a formal Section 13 Notice, with a minimum of two months' notice to tenants. Tenants can also challenge increases through the First-Tier Tribunal if they believe the adjustment exceeds prevailing market value.
- **The Right to Request a Pet:** Landlords must consider all pet requests reasonably. While you may require tenants to purchase pet damage insurance, blanket bans on pets are no longer permitted.
- **The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS):** This system ensures that every property meets safe and habitable standards. Landlords must address any Category 1 hazards (such as damp, electrical faults, or structural risks) promptly to protect tenant wellbeing.
- **Additional Local Regulations:** For landlords operating in Leeds, Manchester, and across the North of England, additional Selective Licensing and HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) regulations may apply. These ensure that multi-tenant properties are safe, energy-efficient, and properly maintained.

Need help interpreting the new Renters' Rights Act or Section 8 reforms? Contact Bridgerent's compliance team today.

How Bridgerent Keeps You Compliant

Bridgerent provides full legislative oversight for every property we manage. We monitor national and regional policy changes, update tenancy processes, and maintain digital compliance records, so landlords remain fully protected and informed.

In short: **With Bridgerent, compliance is automatic, not optional.**

Need help interpreting the new Renters' Rights Act or Section 8 reforms? Contact Bridgerent's compliance team today.

Chapter 3: Deposit Protection: Safeguarding Your Tenants and Your Business

One of the most common compliance breaches in UK lettings involves tenant deposit management. By law, every tenancy deposit must be protected in a government-approved scheme within 30 days of receipt.

Approved Deposit Schemes

1. Deposit Protection Service (DPS)
2. Tenancy Deposit Scheme (TDS)
3. MyDeposits

These schemes safeguard funds and provide independent adjudication if disputes arise.

Landlord Obligations

- Register the tenant's deposit within 30 days of receiving it.
- Provide the tenant with a Prescribed Information Certificate confirming where the deposit is held.
- Return the deposit within 10 days of the tenancy ending (subject to deductions agreed by both parties).

Failure to comply can result in fines of up to three times the deposit amount, invalidate eviction rights, and damage your reputation as a landlord.

At Bridgerent, all deposits are securely registered under approved schemes, and tenants receive confirmation immediately after payment. We handle the entire process, from deposit protection to end-of-tenancy return, giving landlords complete legal protection and peace of mind.

Quick Tip: Always document any deductions with invoices or photos. Bridgerent's digital inventory reports make this simple and transparent.

Let us handle your deposit compliance... explore Bridgerent's Let-Only or Full Management packages today.

Chapter 4: Safety & Energy Requirements

Protecting Your Tenants and Your Property

A safe, well-maintained, and energy-efficient property isn't just good practice; it's the law. UK landlords are legally obligated to ensure that every home they let meets minimum safety and quality standards. These rules have been further strengthened by the introduction of the Decent Homes Standard and Awaab's Law, which set out new expectations for the private rented sector in 2025.

At Bridgerent, we help landlords stay ahead of these evolving standards, ensuring that every property under our management remains safe, compliant, and desirable to tenants.

1. Core Safety Obligations

- **Gas Safety Certificate (CP12):** Every gas appliance and flue must be inspected annually by a qualified Gas Safe engineer. A valid certificate must be issued within 28 days of inspection and shared with tenants.
- **Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR):** Required every five years; this report ensures the safety of your electrical systems. Any remedial work identified must be completed within 28 days of the inspection.
- **Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms:** You must install at least one smoke alarm per floor and a carbon monoxide alarm in any room containing a solid-fuel-burning appliance. Alarms must be tested before each tenancy begins.
- **Fire Safety & HMO Regulations:** For Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), landlords must install interlinked smoke alarms, provide fire-resistant doors, and maintain clear escape routes.

Did you know?

Failure to comply with fire and gas safety obligations can result in civil penalties of up to £30,000 and, in serious cases, criminal prosecution.

Schedule a Free Property Safety and Energy Compliance Review

2. The Decent Homes Standard (DHS)

For the first time, the Decent Homes Standard, which was previously applicable only to social housing, now applies to the private rented sector. This standard requires every property to meet four key criteria:

- 1. Free from Serious Hazards:** No Category 1 hazard under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).
- 2. Reasonable State of Repair:** Structural elements such as roofs, windows, and heating systems must be in good condition.
- 3. Modern Facilities and Services:** Properties should have modern kitchens and bathrooms, appropriate layouts, and adequate ventilation.
- 4. Thermal Comfort:** Homes must provide effective heating and insulation for energy efficiency and comfort.

What does this mean for Landlords?

Failure to meet DHS standards can lead to enforcement action, fines, or restrictions on letting. For managed landlords, Bridgerent conducts routine property audits and advises on upgrades to ensure all homes meet (and often exceed) the new Decent Homes criteria.

3. Awaab's Law: Urgent Repairs and Response Times

Named after the tragic case that exposed the dangers of mould and poor maintenance, Awaab's Law enforces strict deadlines for addressing hazards in rented homes:

- **Emergency Hazards:** Must be investigated and initial action taken within 24 hours.
- **Serious Issues (e.g., Damp & Mould):** Must be inspected within 10 working days, with repairs started within 5 days of completing the inspection.

In practice: This means landlords can no longer delay essential maintenance; action must be documented, time-stamped, and traceable.

How Bridgerent Ensures Compliance?

Our property management service tracks every reported issue, timestamps of communication, and responds immediately by assigning contractors, guaranteeing compliance with Awaab's Law response times.

4. Energy Performance & Future Efficiency Standards

Energy performance remains central to UK housing policy. While the government has delayed the proposed EPC 'C' minimum standard, improving energy efficiency remains a top priority.

- **Current Requirement:** All rental properties must have a valid EPC rating of E or above.
- **Future Outlook:** The minimum requirement is expected to rise to C for new tenancies in the coming years.

Why does It Matter?

Properties with higher EPC ratings command better rental value, attract eco-conscious tenants, and are more resilient to future regulation.

How does Bridgerent Support Landlords?

We advise on cost-effective energy upgrades, from insulation to efficient boilers, helping landlords future-proof their assets and stay ahead of evolving EPC requirements.

Bridgerent's Safety Assurance

From annual inspections to 24/7 maintenance, Bridgerent takes a proactive approach to safety and compliance. Our team ensures that every property:

- It has valid gas, electrical, and EPC certificates on file.
- Meets all standards under the Decent Homes Standard.
- Responds to tenant repair requests within legal timeframes.
- Is continuously monitored for safety and efficiency.

*Want peace of mind knowing your property meets every safety and quality standard?
Contact Bridgerent today to schedule a free compliance review.*

Chapter 5: Right to Rent & Data Protection

Ensuring Legal Tenancies and Responsible Data Handling

Every UK landlord has a responsibility to ensure their tenants have the legal right to rent in the country. In addition, landlords and agents must handle all tenant information in line with data protection laws to maintain privacy and security.

Right to Rent Checks:

- Verify each tenant's immigration status before the tenancy starts.
- Acceptable documents include passports, residence permits, or government issued ID.
- Keep copies of verification documents securely for at least one year after the tenancy ends.
- Failing to comply can result in fines up to £3,000 per tenant or criminal liability in severe cases.

Data Protection Responsibilities:

- All landlords and agents must register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Collect and store tenant data (IDs, contact info, tenancy documents) only for legitimate purposes.
- Ensure all digital and paper records are stored securely and shared only with authorised personnel.
- Tenants have the right to access, correct, or request deletion of their personal information.

How Bridgerent Ensures Compliance:

Bridgerent is fully registered with the ICO and follows GDPR-compliant processes for all data handling. We perform and document Right to Rent checks for every tenancy, ensuring landlords stay protected from penalties while maintaining tenant trust.

Tip: Avoid storing tenant documents on personal devices. Use secure cloud storage or an encrypted property management system.

Want peace of mind knowing your property meets every safety and quality standard?
Contact Bridgerent today to schedule a free compliance review.

Chapter 6: Financial & Client Money Regulations

Transparency and Security in Every Transaction

Landlords entrust agents with rent payments, deposits, and maintenance funds, so protecting client money is a cornerstone of compliance in the UK property sector.

Client Money Protection (CMP): All property agents handling client funds must belong to a government-approved CMP scheme. This protects landlords and tenants if funds are misused or misappropriated. Bridgerent is a proud member of an approved CMP scheme, providing complete financial transparency.

Separate Client Accounts: Funds received from tenants are held in a dedicated client account, separate from company operational funds. This ensures rent and deposits are never mixed with business income.

Rent Collection & Transfers:

- Rent must be transferred promptly, with clear statements to landlords.
- Arrears must be tracked and managed through documented procedures.
- Late or missed payments should trigger automated follow-ups and reports.

Maintenance & Expense Records: All repair and maintenance costs should be logged in with receipts, invoices, and supplier details. Landlords should receive monthly financial summaries for full visibility.

Tax & Record-Keeping:

- Keep records for at least six years for HMRC.
- Declare all rental income under the UK's property tax rules.
- Bridgerent supports landlords with accurate monthly statements to simplify tax filing.

*Want peace of mind knowing your property meets every safety and quality standard?
Contact Bridgerent today to schedule a free compliance review.*

Did you know?

HMRC has increased audits of landlords using digital records. Opting for Professional management helps reduce compliance risks.

How Bridgerent Protects Your Finances:

We operate a fully transparent accounting process supported by CMP membership, secure client accounts, and detailed landlord statements. Every transaction is traceable, auditable, and compliant with UK financial regulations.

*Want peace of mind knowing your property meets every safety and quality standard?
Contact Bridgerent today to schedule a free compliance review.*

Chapter 7: Bridgerent's Compliance Commitment

Leading the Way in Ethical, Transparent Property Management

At Bridgerent, compliance isn't a checklist; it's a culture. We believe that good property management is built on trust, accountability, and constant adaptation to new legislation. As the UK's private rented sector evolves under the Renters' Rights Act 2025, Bridgerent remains at the forefront, ensuring our landlords are not just compliant, but confident.

1. Our Memberships and Accreditations

We operate under full membership with the UK's recognized industry bodies, guaranteeing that every transaction, tenancy, and repair meets national regulatory standards.

Our Core Memberships Include:

- **Client Money Protection (CMP):** Safeguarding all landlord and tenant funds.
- **Deposit Protection Schemes (DPS & TDS):** Ensuring every deposit is legally secured.
- **The Property Ombudsman / PRS Scheme:** Providing independent, fair dispute resolution.
- **ICO (Information Commissioner's Office):** Maintaining GDPR and data protection compliance.
- **Redress Scheme:** Guaranteeing accountability and access to impartial complaint resolution.

2. The Private Rented Sector (PRS) Database

The PRS Database, introduced under the 2025 reforms, is a national digital register requiring all landlords to register their properties. Its purpose is to ensure transparency, track licensing compliance, and identify non-compliant landlords.

Download your compliance checklist, or contact Bridgerent's team today to book your free property compliance consultation.

How Bridgerent Helps:

We manage the entire registration process for our landlords: from initial submission to renewal, ensuring every property we oversee is correctly listed and up to date in the national PRS Database.

Did you know?

Failing to register a property on the PRS Database could result in fines, rental restrictions, or loss of management privileges.

3. The Statutory PRS Ombudsman

As part of the new compliance framework, all landlords must now be registered with the Statutory Private Rented Sector Ombudsman, an independent body providing fast, fair, and binding dispute resolution between landlords and tenants.

What This Means for You:

- **Tenants can now raise complaints without court involvement.**
- **The Ombudsman's rulings are binding, ensuring fair outcomes for both parties.**
- **Landlords benefit from quicker resolutions and reduced legal exposure.**

Bridgerent's Advantage:

We're already registered under the approved Ombudsman scheme and maintain a transparent internal process for dispute management. This ensures that issues are resolved efficiently and professionally before they ever escalate to formal proceedings.

Download your compliance checklist, or contact Bridgerent's team today to book your free property compliance consultation.

4. Ongoing Monitoring and Legislative Updates

Property legislation evolves constantly – and ignorance of the law is no defence. At Bridgerent, our compliance team continuously monitors updates from government departments, regulatory agencies, and industry bodies to ensure all our landlords remain up to date.

Our systems automatically:

- Track the renewal dates of gas, electrical, and EPC certificates.
- Flag changes in legal or regional licensing requirements.
- Provide landlords with quarterly compliance summaries and recommendations.
- Maintain a digital audit trail of all certificates, reports, and documentation.

Result: Every Bridgerent landlord receives proactive protection – not reactive fixes.

5. Our Promise to You

At Bridgerent, we see compliance as the cornerstone of trust. We don't just meet the minimum requirements, we exceed them, giving landlords the confidence that their property is managed to the highest professional standard.

Our Promise Includes:

- 100% adherence to UK property laws and safety standards.
- Transparent financial reporting with CMP-backed client accounts.
- Fair, GDPR compliant tenant communication and data handling.
- Continuous legal monitoring and landlord education through our Compliance Hub.

6. Your Next Step

Whether you're a landlord, investor, or agent looking to ensure your portfolio is fully compliant, Bridgerent is your trusted partner in responsible property management.

Download your compliance checklist, or contact Bridgerent's team today to book your free property compliance consultation.