

The Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy, MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats
4 Cowley Street
London SW1P 3NB

Ms Noëlle Rawé
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11 Basil Street
London SW3 1AX

(By Special Delivery)

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14 December 2004

Dear Mr Kennedy,

Potential opportunity to win 2 million votes at the next general election

The enclosed is in particular for the attention of your Shadow Ministers for:

- Housing
- The Courts
- Local Government
- Human Rights.

It comprises of my letter to Mrs Ann Abraham, Parliamentary Ombudsman, with supporting enclosures.

To date, I have not received an acknowledgement from Mrs Abraham. There may be a number of reasons for this. These include the possibility that she did not receive it, as, although I personally delivered the letter to her office at Millbank Tower on the morning of Monday 6 December, I was not allowed access to the 15th floor where I understand her office is located.

The reason for the title of my letter is that there is an estimated 2 million leaseholders in this country. It would not be an exaggeration to assume that a very large proportion of these are suffering abuse of one form or another from their landlord. These leaseholders are a large, silent, suffering majority, scared to speak-up for fear of losing the sum total of their financial wealth: by not being able to sell their property.

I have opted to take the risk, partly out of despair, and partly because I am outraged by what has happened to me, considering that we are in the 21st century, in a country that calls itself 'civilised' and has signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Will you be the Party that takes up the challenge? Will you include in your Manifesto the promise that, shortly after taking office, you will ensure that there is at a minimum:

- proper protection (¹) for leaseholders who fall prey to abusive, unscrupulous landlords?
- a fast and efficient, free of charge (²) mechanism to ensure that leaseholders suffering abuse do indeed benefit from the protection put in place?

If you do, you will have my vote and, I think, that of many others.

Yours sincerely



Noëlle Rawé

PS. I realise you cannot be of assistance to me personally as I am not one of your constituents. Indeed, you have already communicated this to me in your enclosed letter of 20 August 2003

Encs. My letter to Mrs Ann Abraham and 27 supporting enclosures, dated 22 November 2004
Letter to me from Mr Charles Kennedy, dated 20 August 2003

¹ I am sure that Mr Nigel Wilkins, Chair of C.A.R.L. www.carl.org.uk, would welcome the opportunity to share his views with you

² Ideally, funded through a levy on landlords and, in the meantime, publicly funded

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Handwritten notes and stamps on the right side of the envelope, including a date stamp and some illegible text.

Faint, mostly illegible text and markings on the back of the envelope, including a large circular postmark and various handwritten annotations.