



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is SafeDeposits Scotland?

SafeDeposits Scotland is an independent tenancy deposit scheme approved by the Scottish Government. SafeDeposits holds the deposit during the tenancy in order to keep it safe and to make sure it is available to be returned to the tenant at the end of the tenancy, if they have met the terms of their tenancy agreement. SafeDeposits also offers an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process if landlords and tenants cannot agree on how the deposit should be repaid at the end of the tenancy.

What is the SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund?

The SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund is a new fund made available by SafeDeposits Scotland, effective 1st April 2023. SafeDeposits Scotland will utilise the Community Fund to issue grant awards to organisations to deliver projects that meet at least one of five set criteria.

What are the criteria for the SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund?

SafeDeposits Scotland will consider applications for projects that fit with one or more of the following criteria: Sustainability and the environment; Employability and career skills; Social inclusion; Technology and digital inclusion; Improving the local community. Details on what cannot be funded by the SafeDeposits Scotland Community fund can be found within its [rules and guidance](#).

How is the SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund funded?

SafeDeposits Scotland is a not-for-profit organisation. Its running costs are funded entirely from the interest earned on deposits held, and landlords, letting agents and tenants do not have to pay any fees to take part in the scheme. The SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund is funded by surpluses generated, in the same way that the SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust is funded.

What is the SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust, and how does the SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund differ from it?

The SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust is a grant-giving charity designed to promote education, training and best practice in Scotland's private rented sector, which has awarded over £1 million in funding grants since 2016. Grant awards are decided by a board of Trustees and projects awarded must meet one or both of two specific objectives: To advance education, particularly in relation to best practice in the management of private rented housing; and to legal rights and obligations which are of particular relevance to those who are involved in the provision or management of private rented sector housing or who hold tenancies within the private rented housing sector; To advance conflict resolution through promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution processes for the more efficient resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants within the private rented housing sector.

The SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund is available to a broader range of projects – whilst not specific to the private rented sector it is hoped that they will benefit PRS landlords, letting agents and tenants as well as the wider communities in which they live and work. The SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund will issue small awards up to a maximum of £5,000 only, whereas the SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust issues larger awards. SafeDeposits Scotland staff will decide on how Community Fund grants are awarded.

Why has SafeDeposits Scotland introduced the Community Fund?

SafeDeposits Scotland is a not-for-profit organisation based in Scotland. Its board has decided to invest an available surplus in the communities across the length and breadth of Scotland in which its customers live and work. At a time when individuals and charities are facing unprecedented financial challenges, SafeDeposits Scotland believes that this is an appropriate and responsible use of funds. The use of funds is in line with the Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Regulations 2011.