# Labour donor Lord Alli faces scrutiny over eviction and rent hike amid housing crisis



The Labour donor Lord Waheed Alli has come under scrutiny after evicting a family of five from a north London townhouse he owns and subsequently increasing the rent by nearly £1,000 a month. The family had rented the five-bedroom property for four years at £4,800 per month before being handed a section 21 "no fault" eviction notice in June. Shortly after, the property was re-listed for £6,000 a month, marking a 25% rise. Despite the tenants’ offer to pay the higher rent, their request was declined. The home was eventually let to new tenants at £5,700 a month, still a significant 19% increase on the original rent.

The father of the evicted family expressed his disappointment, highlighting the disruption to their children’s schooling and lamenting the apparent hypocrisy of a major Labour donor enforcing such a drastic eviction and rent hike. He told the i newspaper, "We have children who were settled in local schools … so we wanted to avoid the disruption if we could." He added that attempts to negotiate even a brief extension to avoid upheaval during exam season were rejected.

Lord Alli, who is estimated to be worth £200 million, has donated over half a million pounds to the Labour Party since 2020, making him one of its largest benefactors. He has also been in the public eye recently for gifting high-value items to party leaders, including Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner. Starmer, the Labour leader, has even made temporary use of a penthouse apartment owned by Alli, valued at around £18 million.

The practice of no-fault evictions, which allow landlords to evict tenants without giving a reason and with as little as two months’ notice, is a leading cause of homelessness in England, according to the charity Shelter. Between July 2024 and June 2025, government data revealed that 11,400 households were forcibly removed from their homes following such evictions. These figures underline growing concerns about tenant security and housing stability amid rising rents and housing shortages.

The UK government has pledged to eliminate no-fault evictions through the upcoming renters’ rights bill, expected to come into force in 2026. This legislation will introduce open-ended tenancies, prohibit Section 21 "no fault" evictions, and impose strict limits on rent increases immediately following a tenancy’s end. Additionally, it will ban landlords from re-letting properties at higher rents for at least six months after eviction, aiming to curtail exploitation and abrupt rent hikes seen in cases like Alli’s.

Despite these government commitments, the bill's implementation date has not yet been announced, prompting criticism and concern from tenants facing similar uncertainties. A spokesperson for Lord Alli denied that financial motives drove the eviction or rent increase, stating that the property was his former home, which he does not manage, and emphasising the new rent was below market value compared to the offer refused by the previous tenants.

This controversy echoes a recent scandal involving Rushanara Ali, the former government homelessness minister, who resigned amid revelations that she evicted tenants from a property she owns and re-let it at a rent increased by £700 shortly after. Ali had publicly condemned exploitative landlord practices, intensifying criticism of her actions as hypocritical. Her spokesperson said she adhered to all legal requirements concerning the tenancy.

These cases have sparked political debate over landlords' role in the housing crisis, particularly when they also hold or have donated to political office. Advocates argue they highlight the urgent need for stronger tenant protections and swift legislative reform. The Renters’ Rights Bill seeks to address these problems by ending fixed-term tenancies and controlling exploitative rent increases, which many hope will significantly improve housing security for renters across the country.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent), [[5]](https://www.inkl.com/news/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-before-hiking-rent-by-nearly-1-000)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent), [[3]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-08/uk-homelessness-minister-rushanara-ali-resigns/105627408), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/rushanara-ali-house-of-lords-ali-london-government-b1241888.html), [[7]](https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/homelessness-minister-evicted-tenants-from-property-and-hiked-rent-by-700-396399/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent), [[6]](https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/comment-when-a-minister-acts-like-a-landlord-the-house-comes-tumbling-down)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent), [[6]](https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/comment-when-a-minister-acts-like-a-landlord-the-house-comes-tumbling-down)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent)
* Paragraph 8 – [[3]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-08/uk-homelessness-minister-rushanara-ali-resigns/105627408), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/rushanara-ali-house-of-lords-ali-london-government-b1241888.html), [[7]](https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/homelessness-minister-evicted-tenants-from-property-and-hiked-rent-by-700-396399/)
* Paragraph 9 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent), [[3]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-08/uk-homelessness-minister-rushanara-ali-resigns/105627408), [[6]](https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/comment-when-a-minister-acts-like-a-landlord-the-house-comes-tumbling-down)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/sep/13/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-higher-rent> - Labour donor Lord Alli evicted a family of five from his north London townhouse, which they had rented for four years at £4,800 per month. After issuing a 'no fault' eviction notice, the property was re-listed at £6,000 per month, a 25% increase. The existing tenants offered to meet the new rent but were refused. The property was subsequently let to new tenants at £5,700 per month, a 19% increase. The government plans to abolish no-fault evictions and restrict landlords from re-listing properties at higher rents for at least six months after eviction.
3. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-08/uk-homelessness-minister-rushanara-ali-resigns/105627408> - UK Homelessness Minister Rushanara Ali resigned after reports emerged that she evicted tenants from her property and then increased the rent by nearly $1,500. Ali had previously spoken out against tenant exploitation and unreasonable rent increases. The opposition Conservatives criticised the government, alleging hypocrisy and self-service.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/rushanara-ali-house-of-lords-ali-london-government-b1241888.html> - Labour's Homelessness Minister Rushanara Ali faced criticism for increasing rent on a property she owns by £700 after evicting tenants. The property was re-listed with the higher rent within weeks of the tenants' departure. A spokesperson for Ali stated that she complied with all relevant legal requirements.
5. <https://www.inkl.com/news/labour-donor-lord-alli-evicted-tenants-before-hiking-rent-by-nearly-1-000> - Labour donor Lord Alli evicted a family of five from his north London townhouse, which they had rented for four years at £4,800 per month. After issuing a 'no fault' eviction notice, the property was re-listed at £6,000 per month, a 25% increase. The existing tenants offered to meet the new rent but were refused. The property was subsequently let to new tenants at £5,700 per month, a 19% increase. The government plans to abolish no-fault evictions and restrict landlords from re-listing properties at higher rents for at least six months after eviction.
6. <https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/comment-when-a-minister-acts-like-a-landlord-the-house-comes-tumbling-down> - The article discusses the Renters’ Rights Bill, which is set to become law in 2026. The bill will prohibit landlords from ending a tenancy on the pretext of a sale only to re-let the property at a higher rent after that. It also bans fixed-term tenancies and Section 21 evictions, making tenancies open-ended with strict controls on large rent increases.
7. <https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/homelessness-minister-evicted-tenants-from-property-and-hiked-rent-by-700-396399/> - Labour's Homelessness Minister Rushanara Ali faced controversy after reports emerged that she evicted tenants from her property and then increased the rent by £700. The property was re-listed with the higher rent within weeks of the tenants' departure. A spokesperson for Ali stated that she complied with all relevant legal requirements.