

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2017

**DAVID TORRANCE MSP CALLS FOR ALL SJM CLIENTS TO COME FORWARD
DRIVE TO ENSURE LANDLORDS AND TENANTS SPEAK WITH BEGBIES TRAYNOR**



David Torrance MSP is calling on the former clients of SJM Mortgages & Estate Agents in Kirkcaldy to contact Begbies Traynor, following the sequestration of the estate of its owner.

Concerns regarding SJM were first raised with the office of David Torrance MSP in September 2016. Many constituents approached the Kirkcaldy Constituency MSP to raise awareness that rent payments from tenants had not been transferred to landlords for several months, as well as reporting that tenancy deposits for leases had failed to be lodged.

Following many reports from constituents that they were finding difficulty in contacting staff, with reports of very erratic and inconsistent opening hours, the SJM premises appeared to become permanently vacant. The management of the property could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Since then, both Police Scotland and Fife Trading Standards have launched their own investigations into the situation.

The estate of SJM's owner, Paul Maksymuik, was sequestrated with effect from 10th November 2016 by Begbies Traynor, a professional services firm. Begbies Traynor have placed a sign in the window of the Factory Road premises, appealing for landlords and tenants to come forward and contact them.

At present, Begbies Traynor have been unable to contact all of the affected landlords and tenants, and have approached David Torrance MSP for his support.

Commenting, David Torrance MSP said:

"The bizarre events of last year involving the erratic behaviour and sudden disappearance of SJM's management has caused considerable distress for landlords and tenants.

"Many of my constituents and others trusted SJM to manage their leases, deposits and other services, and have come forward to express their shock and frustration at the situation to me. In many cases, constituents have been financially affected with no knowledge of whether or not their lost money could be recovered.

"I have repeatedly called for anyone who may be able to shed further light on the situation to come forward and speak to the appropriate authorities, and I repeat that call today.

"It is important that anyone who has been a client of SJM, whether a tenant or a landlord, comes forward to Begbies Traynor to discuss their situation following the sequestration of the business. I know that everyone affected will be anxious to move forward and know where they stand."

Landlords and tenants can contact Begbies Traynor on 0131 222 9074.

ENDS

CONTACT DETAILS

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