

# Landlord faces ban for 'sick' job advert

A LANDLORD, who placed a "sick" job advert inciting potential employees to assault tenants could be banned from letting his property.

Falkirk-based Caduceus Investments sparked fury when they advertised on their website for a part-time manager who would have "the guts to kick someone between the legs as we evict them and their two-year-old child onto the street".

The firm's owner, Mark Kennedy-Stewart, last night said the ad had been a joke.

The job description, for a £12,500 part-time role as a manager for housing stock in Hawick, said: "While you will have a pleasant personality to deal with sales and client relationships, the guts to kick someone between the legs as we evict them and their two-year-old child onto the street would be an advantage."

But Lesley Crozier, the council's senior officer for social justice, equality and diversity, warned that the controversial comments could affect their assessment of whether a landlord is "fit and proper" under the Scottish Executive's private landlord scheme, which came into effect in February.

She said: "The advert would appear to betray an utter contempt for tenants and if this is indeed a joke, it is a very sick one."

Yesterday the ad was removed from the website, on which Kennedy-Stewart also names tenants in arrears and threatens them with bailiffs.

The 40-year-old, who runs the firm with his Russian wife Anna, said: "I do not regret this at all. Anyone who knows me knows I have a sarcastic sense of humour."