

LANDLORD'S JOB ADVERT

Child eviction jibe 'despicable'

A HOUSING landlord was slammed yesterday over a "despicable" job advert.

The ad sought a manager with "the guts to kick someone between the legs as we evict them and their two-year-old child onto the street".

Bosses at Caduceus Investments, which rents out hundreds of properties across Scotland, put the notice on its website as it looked for a part-time boss to handle 200 properties in Hawick, Roxburghshire.

They claimed they wanted to inject

By ROBERT FAIRBURN

some humour into the advert. But Lesley Crozier, of Scottish Borders Council, said the wording cast doubts on the Falkirk-based firm's credentials as a "fit and proper" private landlord.

She said that evictions, especially involving children, were a serious matter.

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

Mark Kennedy-Stewart, *left*, who runs the company, defended the advert, which has

now been removed. The 40-year-old chartered accountant and former banker said: "I do not regret this at all. Anyone who knows me, knows I have a sarcastic sense of humour."

Mr Kennedy-Stewart — who said the vacancy has been filled — added: "The advert was designed to humorously convey that a wide range of people skills are required and that, yes, the successful candidate could be sworn at and abused and to infer otherwise could be misleading."

His Russian-born wife Anna, who is a partner in the business, said: "The problem here is that some people in this country do not have a sense of humour."

