

The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, M.P.
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Noëlle Rawé



London 2 August 2002

Dear Mr Portillo

Jefferson House, 11 Basil St, London SW3 1AX

Thank you for your letter of 29 July. Had Mr Barry Gardiner scanned through the document I sent him, he would have seen on page 22 that I had already approached you.

I will take this opportunity to prove to you that I was not exaggerating about the amount I would have to pay if no action is taken: as you can see from the attached, I have now received the first invoice for **£14,400**. And there is a lot more to come! Imagine if this was addressed to you. How would you feel (and all you have is just a studio flat)?

Since contacting you and other MPs I have heard about Nicholas van Hoogstraten who was allowed to roam free in spite of throwing people on to the street, ripping the roofs off tenants' homes and threatening others with violence.

In light of this, I now find the consistent "can't help you, get a lawyer" answer less surprising. Still, it deeply shocks me that the authorities are just not prepared to act. Basically, in this country, landlords can do anything they want short of committing manslaughter: they know it is too difficult for individuals like me to challenge them, and they know that the authorities will not provide support to individuals.

Thirty years ago I decided to make the UK my home. I committed to it by taking on the British nationality. I thought this was the land of 'fair play', a land where there would be justice. Clearly, I also misunderstood the saying: "an English man's home is his castle".

Best regards

Noëlle Rawé

Enc. Invoice from managing agents for £14,400 and supporting letter