

Hello,

I've located some information on your website pertaining to photography of a tenant's possessions for use in advertising the sale of a rental property by estate agents on behalf of the landlord. I am unable to find anything with respect to their use as part of routine yearly inspections carried by agents that address condition and property maintenance that are part of the tenancy agreement.

Today I had my yearly inspection of the place I am renting by the estate agents. I was told that their practice now was to take digital photos of the inside and outside of the property to share on file with the agents and the land lord. I had not been informed that this was a new and current practice by the agents prior to the agents arrival.

Their job has always been to inspect a premises for structural and functional condition to ensure the property is maintained and used for it's intended purpose. They have taken pictures of specific areas damage/repairs which I have no problem with as this is essential and these do not show my personal belongings or identify me. I see it akin to noting damage on a condition report.

However they also now have digital images of ENTIRE rooms which display all my possessions INCLUDING my bedroom - personal photographs, valuables, clothing, toiletry items, bills that were on the table and even medication left on a bench that I had forgotten to put away etc ALL things which identify me, my medical health, my likes, my dislikes, people I associate with or sporting clubs which I attend - anything and everything about me and which I DO NOT WANT other people to see, let alone my landlord. They have NO RIGHT to now possess images which can be enlarged and inspected to potentially procure information about me that has NOTHING to do with the condition of the premises, and which could easily be disseminated wirelessly or over the internet.

Personal property and identifying matter is NOT part of a condition report.

HOW is this legal? I have looked at the OAIC website under photographs/tenancy and it is not clear. Have you any information on this?

Thank you

Sarah Mclean