

New vacancy at Generation Rent: Trustee with a legal background

Summary of the role:

Generation Rent's mission is to make private renting secure, safe and fair.

We are formally the National Private Tenants Organisation, a company limited by guarantee with charitable objects:

- To prevent or relieve poverty among private rented sector tenants who are in or at risk of poverty.
- To undertake educational activities and improve knowledge and expertise on the part of landlords, tenants, regulators and others so the quality, security, affordability and professionalism of management in the private rented sector is enhanced.

We are now looking for a trustee with a law qualification and experience of company and contract law to support Generation Rent into the next stage of our development.

In just four years, Generation Rent has made a big impact through policy and parliamentary campaigns to improve private renting. We have been nimble, highly tactical and punched above our weight in building a powerful voice for private renters in the corridors of power.

With a strong reputation among decision-makers, influencers and private renter activists, there is so much more we can do leverage our knowledge and networks to increase renters' power and improve standards in the market.

The board and staff have have recently set out revised objectives to guide our work over the coming years:

1. Give renters the same level of security that homeowners have

- By campaigning for the government to pass legislation to restrict landlords' ability to evict tenants who are not at fault and to limit increases in rents, through Parliament, the media and helping renters to make their voices heard

2. Make every private rented home fit for human habitation

- By finding ways to support improvement in enforcement among local authorities, equipping renters to exercise their rights, and identifying further necessary changes to the law

3. Make renters a powerful force in politics and markets

- By supporting the development of local renter groups, promoting a political identity for private renters, and encouraging new services for the rental market that serve renters' interests

We are now looking for an energetic new trustee with a legal background to join the board and help us ensure that we translate our strategy into a sustainable organisation with effective partnerships and robust revenue streams.

Our preferred candidate has good experience of company and contract law, gained from professional practice. Knowledge of landlord and tenant law would be an added bonus. They will help the staff and the board understand any legal issues that might arise, and offer their input on contracts and other legal documents.

We positively encourage applications from women, people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bi and transgender, and people who have disabilities. We value the diversity of perspectives that our diverse board brings to the leadership of our organisation.

The Board of Trustees meets four times a year, usually in London, with ad hoc conference calls to carry out urgent business. The Director also calls upon the trustee's expertise on an occasional direct basis. We estimate that the role will require an average of eight hours per month, with around 3 hours per meeting (including reading papers).

If you think you have the energy and experience to play a leading role in developing Generation Rent into an even more effective and sustainable organisation, please apply through the Reach Volunteering website setting out why you want to be a trustee at Generation Rent and how your experience will contribute to the organisation.

The deadline for applications is 9am on 19 February. We intend to interview candidates in London on 6 March 2018.

Role description

The Board supports the work of Generation Rent and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by Generation Rent's Director, the Board-Director relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.

All trustees must accept ultimate responsibility for the way the organisation is directed and run in meeting its purposes. In this context trustees should:

- accept ultimate responsibility for the way the organisation is directed and run in meeting its purposes, setting and maintaining a framework of delegation and internal control.
- be alert to those matters that cannot be delegated to individual trustees or others
- act at all times in the best interests of the organisation and its beneficiaries
- ensure the solvency and financial strength of the organisation
- safeguard the organisation's assets and use them only in furtherance of its purposes
- take a considered, proportionate and balanced approach to risk management
- act reasonably in their decision making and leadership of the organisation

- recognise and respect that all trustees are equally responsible in law for the board's decisions
- comply with all relevant legislation and regulation applicable to the organisation and the activities it undertakes and make appropriate public statements to confirm that this is the case
- comply with relevant provisions in the governing document and relevant law concerning the exercise of powers of delegation by the board
- act prudently to protect the reputation, assets and property of the organisation; ensuring that the organisation's assets and property are used only to deliver its stated objects and aims.

Other trustee responsibilities include:

Leadership, governance and oversight

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the Director as s/he develops and implements our strategy
- Reviewing achievement of outcomes and other measures created by Generation Rent for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using these measures; reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings
- Approving Generation Rent's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contributing to an annual performance evaluation of the Director and to periodic reviews of the Board's effectiveness
- Assisting the Director and Board chair in identifying and recruiting other trustees
- Partnering with the Director and other trustees to ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Serving on committees and taking on special tasks
- Representing the Generation Rent to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organisation
- Ensuring Generation Rent's commitment to a diverse board and staff that represents the people the Generation Rent serves

Fundraising

Generation Rent trustees will consider Generation Rent a philanthropic priority and participate in its fundraising activities in whatever way is most appropriate for each trustee.

Board terms/participation

Generation Rent trustees will initially be appointed and thereafter will be eligible to re-stand for election at the Generation Rent Annual General Meeting for a term of two years (with a maximum of three full consecutive terms). Board meetings will be held quarterly, usually in London.

Candidates will have the following skills and experience:

- Extensive professional experience, ideally but not essentially including prior board experience.
- Accomplishments in legal practice, philanthropy, the non-profit sector, government or business
- A commitment to, and understanding of, the problems faced by private renters
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of vulnerable private tenants.

Service on Generation Rent board is without remuneration. Administrative support is provided, and reasonable expenses cover travel, subsistence and accommodation costs in relation to trustees' duties.

Further information:

About us (includes profiles of staff and current board members)

<http://www.generationrent.org/about>

Annual Report 2017

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/npto/pages/60/attachments/original/1513959840/Annual_Report_web.pdf?1513959840