
From: SWEENEY, John <john.sweeney@parliament.uk>
Sent: 21 September 2015 14:41
To: jmblakeman
Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear Cllr Blakeman,

Many thanks for this, it's most useful. May I pass it to Victoria?

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

John Sweeney
Office of Lady Borwick MP
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Tel: [REDACTED] | john.sweeney@parliament.uk

From: jmblakeman [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 21 September 2015 12:16
To: SWEENEY, John
Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear Mr. Sweeney

Many thanks for copying me into your reply.

With regard to the individual case of the disabled resident who was left without water, just to update you, I have not had a formal response from the TMO on the matter as yet but have been told informally that this particular issue arose from problems caused by TMO Repairs Direct and not by Rydon.

The Memoli Report was assessed at the time and a number of measures put in place to address the concerns raised, about which the CEO of the TMO, Robert Black, can probably give you the detail. Unfortunately, some of the problems highlighted also came to light in the more recent inquiry by West London Citizens, which the TMO is following up, although I suspect some of the concerns they uncovered were rather historical in nature.

Kind regards.

Cllr. Judith Blakeman

From: SWEENEY, John [<mailto:john.sweeney@parliament.uk>]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Edward Daffarn

Cc: David Collins; William Thompson; antonio gt; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear Eddie,

Thank you for your further email. I am very pleased to learn that the compact is shortly to be formalised, which I hope provides a useful degree of further traction. I shall ensure Lady Borwick is aware of this. As regards the other elements, I am afraid there is little I can add to my email sent last week. Lady Borwick or I will be in contact with some dates as soon as possible.

I certainly understand the rationale for a more private meeting, but there is a limit to the amount of time that the diary can afford. If we arrange this extra meeting, something else will have to come out or be postponed. I would suggest therefore that you discuss which would be preferable to the group and we can arrange one or the other. I am sorry that we cannot be more generous, but such are the constraints imposed by demands on the diary.

Do please call me if it would be helpful to discuss further.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

John Sweeney
Office of Lady Borwick MP
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Tel: [REDACTED] | john.sweeney@parliament.uk

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Database: If you are based in Kensington your email address will be added to our database.

[If you wish to opt out of either of these please let me know.](#)

From: Edward Daffarn [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]
Sent: 21 September 2015 11:46
To: SWEENEY, John
Cc: David Collins; William Thompson; antonio gt; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear John,

Thank you for your email dated 16th September that relates to ongoing concerns at Grenfell Tower. We are intending on formalising our Grenfell Tower RA "compact" with the assistance of the TMO and RBKC Resident Engagement Teams this coming Wednesday 23rd September.

In the meantime, I am writing to you on behalf of a number of residents in our community to request an urgent meeting with Lady Borwick to discuss the continued abuse of tenants, leaseholders and renters by the TMO and Rydon as a result of the Improvement Works being conducted on our homes.

Residents have no confidence in the TMO's ability to investigate the matters that have been brought to their attention (see David Collin's email dated 3rd Sept below) and we have much evidence that previous promises to investigate complaints have just been simply ignored or responded to with lies and falsehoods.

We are requesting that a small group of residents either meet with our MP at an upcoming surgery or visit her at her offices in Westminster if that is more expedient?

Residents believe that our legitimate attempts to reach out to the TMO and Rydon for an honest and

progressive relationship have been totally ignored and that the TMO seem completely unable to raise to the challenge of being able to listen or respond adequately to the serious concerns of residents in Grenfell Tower.

We wish to have a private discussion with Lady Borwick regarding these matters before we have another, more general, meeting at Lancaster West with the TMO and Rydon.

Residents are aware that the TMO were investigated by the Local Government Authority, by way of the Memoli Report, in 2009. The outcome of the report was damning of the TMO and we believe that many of the problems highlighted by Memoli are worse than ever in the current TMO set up. Please access Memoli Report by below link and ensure that our MP is made aware of the key findings of this shocking investigation:

<https://grenfellactiongroup.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/memoli-report.pdf>

We wish to meet with Lady Borwick at her surgery or at her office to ask for her support in getting a new investigation of the TMO launched as we believe that this is the only way that the systematic failings of the TMO in Kensington and Chelsea can be properly exposed.

We are, also, requesting that Lady Borwick sends our community the proposed dates that she intends to return to Lancaster West Estate and meet with our RA in the company of Rydon and the TMO, as promised, that were due to be scheduled to take place towards the middle of October?

Kind regards,

Edward Daffarn

134 Grenfell Tower

From: john.sweeney@parliament.uk

To: [REDACTED]

CC: david@future-conversations.com; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Date: Wed, 16 Sep 2015 09:20:19 +0000

Dear Eddie,

Thank you for your further email. I haven't yet had the opportunity to respond to your earlier one, but yes, Victoria has seen it. Cllr Blakeman has kindly explained to us that she has asked for the matter to be investigated.

We will offer some dates as soon as possible, hopefully next week.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

John Sweeney

Office of Lady Borwick MP

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: [REDACTED] | john.sweeney@parliament.uk

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From: Edward Daffarn [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 16 September 2015 10:17
To: SWEENEY, John
Cc: David Collins; William Thompson
Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear Mr Sweeney,

Please can you confirm for me that you have received my email dated 8th September and that you have had an opportunity to bring the serious matters raised to the attention of our MP?

I wonder, also, if Lady Borwick has had a chance to offer up some dates to meet with Grenfell Tower residents sometime in early to mid October?

Thank you for your kind assistance with these matters.

Regards,

Edward Daffarn

From: [REDACTED]
To: john.sweeney@parliament.uk
CC: david@future-conversations.com; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Urgent Action Required
Date: Tue, 8 Sep 2015 22:19:43 +0100

Dear John,

I am aware that you have been cc'ds into this email trail on a previous occasion so please pardon me for bringing it's contents back to your attention.

Please can you ensure that our MP, Lady Borwick, reads the email below dated 3rd September and sent by a member of our resident group, David Collins to Cllr Judith Blakeman and Cllr Robert Atkinson, concerning the recent appalling treatment of a vulnerable, disabled non-English speaking woman in Grenfell Tower.

Her story is so upsetting that many of our group were profoundly moved, angered and upset by her treatment and we are not going to let things go until this matter is dealt with directly and all the residents of Grenfell Tower are treated with compassion and respect by the TMO and their contractor, Rydon.

It is not acceptable for Rydon to abandon a disabled woman without access to a loo for four days or access to water at night-time and this action shows how little the TMO and Rydon have moved forward since we started to ask them to engage and work with us a community!

There are plenty of other examples of on-going ill-treatment to our community but I will spare you these details for now as the above incident should provide enough evidence that things are seriously out of control with the Grenfell Tower Improvement Works.

We would like our MP to continue to recognise that our on-going complaints against the TMO and Rydon are legitimate and we are asking her to use her power and influence as a Member of Parliament to help us stop this kind of heartless abuse and to get the TMO/Rydon to treat us with respect and engage us with the Improvement Works.

We would like to set a date for Lady Borwick to re-visit our Estate and speak with tenants and leaseholders and meet again with the TMO's, Peter Maddison. Please would you like to suggest some dates and times and we can take things from there?

We have taken our MP's advice and are in the process of formalising our group into a RA Compact and we hope to be formally constituted by the time we next see Lady Borwick.

Thank you for ensuring that Lady Borwick is brought up to date with the concerns contained in this email.

Kind regards,

Edward Daffarn

134 Grenfell Tower

From: David Collins
Date: Friday, 4 September 2015 11:55
To: Judith Blakeman
Cc: Peter Maddison
Subject: Re: Urgent Action Required

Dear Judith,

Thank you for moving on this so quickly.

I fear, and am almost certain, there are more cases similar to this (maybe not so severe, but they could possibly be too) which are still to come to light.

David

From: Judith Blakeman
Date: Thursday, 3 September 2015 12:31
To: 'Peter Maddison', David Collins
Cc: <sjevans@kctmo.org.uk>, <cllr.atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear Mr. Maddison

I have just been to visit the resident. She is.....

The description of her circumstances is as described by Mr. Collins in his e-mail. Ms. is disabled. She has just had her bath replaced with a shower as she was unable to use a bath owing to her disability. Unfortunately this means that the walls of her bathroom have been tiled, which will make it more complicated to put the HIU unit in the cupboard where the boiler was before.

As stated, her blinds rails have been damaged and not put back properly; she is very unhappy about the siting of the boiler unit and all the associated pipework, which she has been told is going to be left as it is. Her entrance hallway has had the ceiling lowered significantly and it is now rather oppressive. Her brother who visits her to offer support is tall and now bangs his head on the ceiling. One of her new windows does not close. I do not find this acceptable.

Ms..... speaks sufficient English but I think it would be very helpful if she were visited by an Arabic speaking interpreter, ideally female, in company with someone from the TMO and/or Rydon.

Many thanks.

Cllr. Judith Blakeman

From: Peter Maddison [<mailto:pmaddison@kctmo.org.uk>]

Sent: 03 September 2015 09:56

To: 'David Collins'

Cc: Simon Lawrence; Janet Edwards; john.sweeney@parliament.uk; Robert Black; Siobhan Rumble; Samantha DeHaan; Claire Williams; councillor blakeman; cllr.r.atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Urgent Action Required

Dear David

Thank you for your message.

Would you please let me have the contact details of this resident so we can investigate this matter?

Regards


Peter

Peter Maddison
Director of Assets and Regeneration



t: [REDACTED]
m: [REDACTED]

a: The Network Hub, 292a Kensal Road, London, W10 5BE

 Before printing, please think about the environment

From: David Collins [<mailto:david@future-conversations.com>]

Sent: 03 September 2015 09:37

To: councillor blakeman; cllr.r.atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk

Cc: Simon Lawrence; Peter Maddison; Janet Edwards; john.sweeney@parliament.uk; Robert Black; Siobhan Rumble; Samantha DeHaan; Tucker, Pilgrim; Claire Williams

Subject: Urgent Action Required

Dear Judith & Robert,

At our Grenfell Tower residents' meeting last night we had a woman join us half way through the meeting, looking very pale. When we asked her why she had come to our meeting she told us the following story; I have attempted to summarise the main points. She came to the meeting as she had seen our latest newsletter (attached) asking people to come talk to us if they had issues. As there are other people copied on this email I will not provide her address and name to all, but will forward that separately. She does not have email, but I have her mobile and flat number. She was extremely humble, quiet, and as you can read in her story she is vulnerable.

"I have many problems in my flat.

Rydon have made many appointments to come and carry out work in my flat, and they have not come to them, or let me know that they were not coming.

I have been making time to stay at home for Rydon, and they have continually not come when they said they would.

They took my curtains down for 9 days. They broke my curtain rail.

For a period of two weeks they kept saying, "We are coming tomorrow", but they did not come. I kept phoning them but they did not answer my calls. I talked to their Managers about this, but got no response.

As a result of Rydon working in my home over this period my gas and electric bills have risen. I live here on my own. Normally my joint bill is never more than £70 for 3 months, the last bill was £117. I have received a red bill notice. I asked TMO if they would pay some of the charge, they agreed, but (did not catch what was said here). I do not even use heating.

I have a health problem. I have never used the heating in my flat before because of my health. It is dangerous for me to get hot. I have to have my windows open, even in the winter, with no heating on because of my health condition. I am really worried about what is going to happen with new windows and this new heating system.

TMO only told me about the other works, other than the windows.

They have put a heating system in my hallway, there is no room in my flat any more, it makes everything cramped. I would like it moved.

They told me everything would take 2 weeks. What happened is I couldn't use the toilet for 3 months, the loo for four days. I had to visit a friend in Shepherds Bush to use their toilet and bathroom. I had no drinking water in the flat during the night.

It would be good if your newsletter came out in another language that just English, as all the notices come out in English"

She continued to talk of other problems, but we didn't have time to capture it all. The details recorded in the email do not seem to quite capture her situation – most people in our meeting were moved to silence. I told her I would forward her details to Councillors Blakeman and Atkinson. Please could you contact her?

The reason I have copied others on this email is because it highlights (for me and us) what has happened in this area of Kensington & Chelsea as a result of the lack of effective engagement and dialogue between TMO and the community, by the TMO not listening immediately to our concerns in March 2015 and proceeding with a tactic of refusing to engage with the community, and the ongoing and continued lack of response and investigation in to reports of people people feeling they have been harassed, threatened or poorly taken care of during the improvement works (and beyond). In my opinion, it is imperative we act on these three things immediately.

I am convinced this woman's story is simply one example of others we have not yet heard. When we knocked the doors of people in Grenfell Tower earlier this year, we met other people who were not getting taken care of and who were not able to speak up for themselves. I have met at least two other women in the last three weeks who want to speak about their problems, but have not yet made it to the Councillors surgery or to the point of formalising what they want to say (one came to the door but didn't come in – she is scared of losing her tenancy).

I cannot get to the bottom of all these cases; but we must. We do not accept that people are impacted in such a way whilst we try to "improve" things, or that nothing should be done to find out if there are more people who have experienced completely avoidable hardships this past six to twelve months. And given the personal experiences we have and hear we do not accept there is any notion of the improvement works currently being "good enough".

Yours,

David Collins

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Public meeting to discuss Post Office proposals to close Earls Court branch.

Tuesday 8 September, 7pm to 9pm. St Cuthbert's Church, 50 Philbeach Gardens, SW5 9EB.

Come along and have your say <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/postoffice>

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
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