



Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP
Member of Parliament for Islington North

URGENT

Mr Mike Hinch
Chief Executive, Newlon Housig Trust

By email:

Our Ref: JC71222 July 2020

Dear Mr Hinch,

I have received dozens of emails from concerned residents of 1 & 3 Queensland Road raising serious concerns regarding fire safety in their buildings.

I understand that an External Fire Safety Review, which took Newlon Housing a considerable amount of time to complete, was recently published. It was found that 1 & 3 Queensland Road require urgent external remedial works in order to meet the latest fire safety requirements for housing developments over 18 meters high, which were introduced after the tragic incident of Grenfell Tower.

I am informed that the neighbouring three buildings, which are part of the same development, were built as luxury private homes. Despite the buildings looking identical on the outside and having been built at the same time by the same constructors, Keir, I am very concerned to hear that the luxury properties received the highest A1 safety rating in the External Fire Safety Review, whereas the social/affordable housing properties received a B2 rating. As I am sure you will agree, this is wholly unacceptable and I would like to know why the same materials were not used for all the buildings.

I am deeply concerned that residents have been advised that the necessary remedial works will be completed in approximately two years. As I am sure you will understand, residents feel that they are being asked to continue living in unsafe conditions, putting their and their families lives at risk in the event of a fire.

Residents also mentioned that there is a dispute between Keir and Newlon Housing over who is liable for the costs of the remedial works. I am concerned to hear that consideration is being given to making residents liable for the costs. I sincerely hope that this will not be given any further consideration as they are not responsible for this situation and they should not be penalised.

I am aware that Councillor Richard Watts is in communication with Newlon Housing on this matter. I would be most grateful if you could keep me closely updated on any developments. I hope that this matter is being prioritised and that the necessary measures will be taken immediately to ensure that a tragedy similar to Grenfell Tower does not reoccur.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Corbyn MP