



Tenants have nothing to fear from increased gas access

28 October 2014

CAMPAIGNERS calling for increased legal rights to access homes and carry out vital gas safety checks have reassured concerned residents powers would only be used as a last resort.

The Gas Access Campaign has responded to concerns by the Tenants and Residents Organisations of England (TAROE) that increased rights of entry could be misused. TAROE fears that new powers could be used if people miss gas safety appointments due to being at work or on holiday.

The Gas Access Campaign is being led by Home Group, the Association of Gas Safety Managers and CORGI Technical services.

Mark Henderson, Home Group chief executive, said: "It's entirely understandable that with any proposed change to a law people will have concerns about how the power will be used.

"To be clear this proposed change would put housing associations in the same position local authorities have occupied for years. Councils have demonstrated they exercise this power responsibly and there is no reason why registered social landlords, regulated by the HCA, would act differently.

"The power of entry would not be used following first refusal or a missed appointment but only as a last resort when it is abundantly clear tenants are deliberately refusing access.

"Entry would only be granted following a legal hearing in which associations would need to demonstrate to a judge it was appropriate. This law wouldn't change the point in time at which housing associations seek legal powers of entry but it would make the court process much swifter."

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The Association of Gas Safety Managers

The Association of Gas Safety Managers (AGSM) is for managers in Social Housing and Facilities Management organisations who are responsible for all aspects of gas safety. The Association was been set up by CORGI in response to a demand from gas managers for a professional Association which can address industry issues with key stakeholders and create one voice from the sector to key government departments. It also provides members with support, networking opportunities, training and many other benefits. All members are undertaking or have completed CORGI's Level 4 VRQs in Gas Safety Management or have an equivalent level of qualification or experience and collectively look after the gas safety management of nearly two million homes across the country. www.agsm.uk.com