



Gas Access Campaign reaches 1.5m mark

17 December 2014

A campaign aimed at improving gas safety for millions of people has reached another significant milestone.

The Gas Access Campaign has now attracted the support of housing providers representing more than 1.5m social homes. More than 160 housing providers have now backed the campaign in addition to high level support from London Mayor Boris Johnson, London Councils, British Gas and 15 other local authorities throughout England.

The campaign is being spearheaded by Home Group with the Association of Gas Safety Managers and CORGI Technical Services.

The campaign hopes to correct a deficiency in the law which prevents housing associations from gaining entry to tenants' homes in a timely manner if they are denied access by tenants.

The issue is estimated to cost the sector £50m each year.

Mark Henderson, Home Group chief executive, said: "The speed at which we have reached 1.5m homes goes to show the high level of support among the sector for this issue. Gaining access to properties to ensure the gas safety of customers is an issue every social housing provider faces.

"While the majority of tenants are happy to allow access there is a small but determined number who refuse and the current legislation doesn't give social landlords the powers they need to ensure the safety of tenants and their neighbours from faulty boilers or flues."

Currently local authorities are able to apply to a court to gain lawful entry into homes within 24 hours of refusal by a tenant. Housing associations can take as long as four months to legally gain entry to a property. The Gas Access Campaign wants to simplify the process for both sectors.

Claire Heyes, chief executive of the AGSM said: "The Gas Access issue affects social landlords across the country and the high level of sign-up reflects the concern expressed by everyone in the sector. We will continue to push for this to be higher on the political agenda – waste on this scale is unacceptable especially when fuel poverty is so prevalent and the safety of tenants and staff is being put at risk."

To sign up to the campaign and put your name to a petition calling on the Government to alter the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998 visit: www.gasaccesscampaign.org.uk



To sign the Gas Access petition visit: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/68910>

ENDS

For further information contact Robert Weatherall on 0191 290 7908 or email robert.weatherall@homegroup.org.uk

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CORGI Technical Services Ltd

CORGI Technical Services Ltd has over forty years of technical expertise in all aspects of gas safety. With comprehensive site audits, training for employees, a family of VRQ gas safety qualifications for management, gas auditors, front line housing staff and tenants, legal advice and expert witness testimony, CORGI Technical works with local authorities, housing associations, private landlords, contractors, energy suppliers and the travel industry to support them with their gas safety obligations, compliance and continued improvement. www.corgitechnical.com

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 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