

NEWS RELEASE

23 June 2015

Gas Access Campaign invited to discuss campaign proposals with HSE, HCA & Government stakeholders

The leaders of the Gas Access Campaign, who want a change in the law to improve gas safety for millions of people, have been invited to discuss the campaign proposals with the HSE (Health & Safety Executive), HCA (Homes & Communities Agency) and other Government stakeholders at a meeting in Westminster in July 2015.

Claire Heyes, CEO of the Association of Gas Safety Managers (AGSM) and Mark Henderson, CE of Home Group, will be attending the meeting on behalf of the campaign, whose supporters include over 200 housing associations, local authorities, MPs, Peers and industry leaders. The Gas Access Campaign is calling for changes to legislation used to ensure social landlords can carry out timely annual statutory gas safety checks and a new MOT style of servicing boilers. The Campaign estimates that £0.5 billion could be saved over the next decade by adopting these changes.

Claire Heyes commented: “We welcome this meeting which has been called by the HCA and HSE. It is a very positive step forward in our campaign and is an indication that our messages are getting through to the right people.”

Mark Henderson, Chief Executive of Home Group said: “The Campaign has attracted significant support within the sector. We’ve already met with Government on this and it’s very encouraging that two of the departments which are most affected called this meeting. It shows real commitment to understanding the issues surrounding gas safety and a willingness to listen possible solutions.”

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NOTE TO EDITORS

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 management. 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 through the AGSM National Academy for Gas Safety and many other benefits. All members are undertaking or have completed CORGI's Level 4 VRQs in Gas Safety Management and collectively look after the gas safety management of over two million homes across the country. Corporate & individual membership is available. www.agsm.uk.com

CORGI Technical Services Ltd

CORGI Technical Services Ltd has over forty years of technical expertise in all aspects of gas safety. CORGI delivers comprehensive site audits, training for employees, a family of VRQ gas safety qualifications for management, gas auditors, front line housing staff and tenants. It delivers legal advice, incident investigation and expert witness testimony and the industry standard of CORGI Quality Gas Safety Management Accreditation. CORGI 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

About Home Group Limited:

- Home Group is one of the UK's largest providers of high quality housing and supported housing services and products.
- Home Group is a social enterprise and a charity (Charitable Community Benefit Society No. 22981R) with a turnover of £327m.
- Our mission is *"to help our customers and clients to open doors to new opportunities and healthy lives."*
- We provide general needs housing and supported housing services targeted towards helping some of society's most vulnerable people take control of their own lives. We:
 - house more than 120,000 people a year in 55,000 homes across 200 local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales.
 - work with almost 30,000 vulnerable people through 500+ supported housing, justice and health services each year.

- Care and Support services focus on housing related support, criminal justice and health services.

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