

Your East Finchley Councillors:
Cllr Arjun Mittra
Cllr Alison Moore
Cllr Alon Or-bach
Your London Assembly Member:
Andrew Dismore AM



Lord Kerslake,
Chair, Peabody,
45 Westminster Bridge Road,
London SE1 7JB

2 March 2016

Dear Lord Kerslake,

Gas supply, Strawberry Vale N2

Residents of Strawberry Vale in East Finchley have asked us to help them get some answers from you arising from Peabody's decision not to restore their gas supply for cooking after it was cut off on 20 January. The decision also cut off heating and hot water for a large group of residents.

After legal action was initiated and an assessment by independent experts, Peabody has now informed residents that gas is, after all, its preferred energy choice for cooking and that it is working to restore the supply. This is a complete reversal of the policy decision to switch the whole estate to electric, under which your staff told residents that gas would never be restored.

In the five weeks between the gas supply being cut off and your about turn, we have visited residents and attended estate meetings. During this time some residents have felt it necessary to move out to privately rented accommodation, the British Red Cross has attended to help supply emergency hot food and hot water, residents and local churches have run a hot meals service in the community centre, and residents, including young children and the elderly, have developed medical conditions including respiratory illness that has led to hospital admissions.

Information provided to residents has been unclear, contradictory and seemed designed to mislead. Residents say they have lost faith in Peabody's management team. This is why we are writing to you.

It should not take legal action, angry residents' meetings and letters from the Assembly Member and Councillors for Peabody to listen. In these circumstances, residents deserve clear answers to their concerns and we would like to hear your answers to the following points:

- Will Peabody restore gas cookers to homes where these have been removed? This was offered to residents at an estate meeting but has not been put in writing.
- Why doesn't Peabody have a gas safety case for the estate supply system?
- Will improved financial compensation be offered to residents, a principle which Peabody has accepted with the £100 vouchers that have been distributed.
- Will you make a clear statement on Peabody's policy on allowing residents access to gas, which is a third the price of electricity, and on maintaining the estate heating system?

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Dismore, London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden,
with Alison Moore, Arjun Mittra and Alon Or-bach, Councillors for East Finchley

East Finchley Labour Party, 38 Church Lane, London N2 8DT
London Assembly, City Hall, Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

volunteer@fgglabour.org.uk
andrew@andrewdismore.org.uk