

Appendix 1: answers to written questions from Andrew Dismore AM

Rogue Landlords 2016/4500

Andrew Dismore

What are you doing to deal with rogue private sector landlords?

Answer

We are planning a number of initiatives to deal with criminal landlords, including naming and shaming those landlords who have been successfully prosecuted by councils, and working closely with local authorities to help them introduce and effectively enforce licensing schemes. The GLA is also working with Government on draft regulations to bring into effect the new powers promised to local authorities via the Housing and Planning Act 2016. These include banning orders, civil penalty notices and enhanced access to rent repayment orders.

AirBnB 2016/4501

Andrew Dismore

What progress is being made with AirBnB to ensure that properties are not let through them for longer than planning requirements permit?

Answer

The Mayor supports the right of Londoners to be able to benefit from renting out their homes for short periods and welcomes the fact that Airbnb helps make it cheaper and easier for people to visit London. However, he is aware of the legitimate concerns around enforcing existing legislation. Following discussions between AirBnB, the GLA, London Assembly and London Boroughs, AirBnB has taken the positive step of putting a restriction on their website for hosts renting out entire properties in London. This will restrict them from letting properties out for more than 90 days in a calendar year unless they can show planning permission.

Estate Agent Fees 2016/4502

Andrew Dismore

What steps are you taking to deal with estate agents' fees charged to tenants seeking a private sector rental?

Answer

Since his election campaign the Mayor has been calling for letting agency fees to be banned. These fees pile on costs for renters and are fundamentally unfair. The Mayor's voice has been part of a coalition of support for a ban, comprising charities, renters' and consumer rights groups, as well as many members of the public. Government's announcement that it plans to ban these fees is therefore a very welcome move.

Housing repairs 2016/4503

Andrew Dismore

What steps are you taking to ensure that Barratts and Family Mosaic housing deal properly and promptly with repairs to lifts and heating and hot water systems amongst other issues and only raise fair service charges for residents in the Stonegrove regeneration, Barnet, partly funded by the GLA?

Answer

There has been no further action on this as there have been no further complaints raised to the GLA or LB Barnet. We are confirming with Family Mosaic that there have been no further issues raised and will confirm if there is anything further to report.