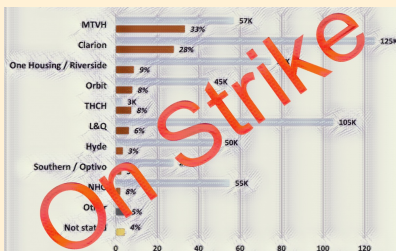


Social Housing Action Campaign

28 August 2023

SHAC Update

Recent articles ~ Event ~ Scam Calls



Rent and Service Charge Strikes Grow and Collectivise New SHAC Research Published

Bridget tells us that she is withholding some of her rent payment because “*The Tenants Advisory Service and my MP agreed that urgent repairs were needed, but no upgrading to the property has been carried out. I am in an old Victorian house which is impossible to keep warm for my disabled daughter’s health. I am on a state pension and struggling*”.

The organisations that are supposed to offer independent arbitration for housing disputes are understaffed, underfunded, and have had their teeth pulled. It is inevitable that people turn to other tactics as our new research shows.

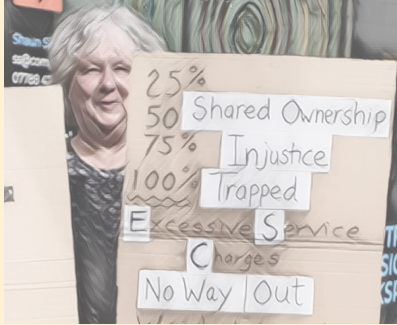
[See more.](#)



Occupation and Protest Highlights Empty Homes Scandal

On the same theme, a coalition of groups including Housing Rebellion and Islington Homes for All occupied some Ministry of Justice flats that have stood empty for more than a decade. The local housing waiting list has 15,000 households in need. [See more.](#)

Service Charges: Unreasonable Laws



What should be part of your rent, and what is acceptable as a service charge? Neither the law nor statutory guidance offer much help.

We are building a picture of our own regarding what should and should not be service chargeable based on feedback from members. We will use this in lobbying ahead of the (likely 2024) General Election. Feel free to use the comments section on the article to add your views [See more](#).



Conditions of Living Event

10.30am-1pm, Friday, 1st September

Four Corners, 121 Roman Road, London E2 0QN ([map](#))

SHAC has been invited to speak at the **Conditions of Living** event in Bethnal Green.

Segregation in housing developments can occur in a variety of ways. Local authorities allow property developers to design 'poor doors' to create physical barriers, but there is also race, sex, and disability discrimination. This event explores forms of segregation and how we challenge them.

This is the final event of a season accompanying Four Corners' exhibition *Conditions of Living: Home and Homelessness* in London's East End and Anthony Luvera's new work, *Conditions of Living*, which investigates economic segregation.

If you would like to come along, get your free ticket [here](#).

Who called me?

Scam Callers - Check Them Out!

Calls from people claiming to be from your housing association or one of their sub-contractors are not always genuine. One of our members has alerted us to a handy service for looking up numbers to see who is really calling, find out what others have to say about them, and identify whether they are genuine.

You can access *Who Called Me* [here](#).

WhatsApp Campaign Groups

SHAC members are increasingly using WhatsApp to communicate between meetings, provide peer support, and plan action. Click on the relevant links below if you would like to join in.

[SHAC Campaign WhatsApp group](#)

[Clarion WhatsApp group](#)

[Hyde WhatsApp group](#)

[Sign the Freeze Rents & Service Charges Pledge](#)

[Take our Service Charge Survey](#)

[See our Events calendar](#)

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