

20 May 2023

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**SHAC members like Jill, pictured above, a shared owner with extortionate service charges, and many others too, have been writing to their MPs about service charge abuse.**

The hard work of lobbying for greater legal protections and accountability has meant that our message is starting to get through.

**Please help by asking your own MP to lobby government** if you haven't already done so. You can find your MP's contact details [here](#), and a template text that can be sent by post or email [here](#).

MPs Lyn Brown and Karen Buck for example have added to the pressure on Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Housing.

## End Service Charge Abuse

### Lobbying Update

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Lyn replied to one of our members saying:

*"I have written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask him to outline what steps his Department are taking to protect tenants from unfair service charges and whether his Department are considering any specific steps to improve regulation of service charges.*

*Finally, I have asked him what steps he is taking to ensure that increases in service charges cannot be used to circumvent the 7% rental cap for social landlords that has been announced from April 2023. I will be happy to forward you the Government's response once it is received."*

See the full email text [here](#).

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## SHAC in the News

So far this month, SHAC has been interviewed for [BBC London TV](#) (now on our YouTube) and the [BBC website](#) on housebuilding in London, by [Housing Digital](#) on supersized associations, and by [City AM](#) on extortionate service charges.



## Striker Support Meeting

Registration is now open for our Striker Support Meeting which is relevant to anyone withholding payment from their landlord, whatever the issue under dispute.

**6.30pm, Monday 12th June**  
Online - Register [here](#)



## Research and Press Interview Requests

- **Tim Clarke** from Housing Digital is working on a long-term piece about whether landlords doing enough to fix building defects. He wants to find out if they are being honest with tenants over the extent or causes of defects and are they, and/or builders, drawing out the process because neither side wants to pay for it. He'd like to map the issues people experience, and identify whether homes are properly maintained. If you are affected by any of these issues, please contact [Tim](#), confidentially if you wish.
- **Anna Pagani** is a Research fellow at University College London. She is researching social housing provision and regeneration, and its effects on sustainability and health. Anna is interested in collecting all affected voices. The project is not meant to remain confined to the academic realm, but to create a real dialogue with decision-makers and several stakeholders, and co-create pathways to housing justice. If you are interested in taking part, please email [Anna](#).

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