



12th May 2024



Dear Suzanne

- End Service Charge Abuse: Full Update -
- SHAC Uncensored - Protest Pics -

Click images to view

## End Service Charge Abuse Full Update

### Political

This week, we met with **MPs Neil Coyle, Steven Timms, and Andy Slaughter** to present our evidence on service charge abuse (SCA). All were sympathetic and Coyle in particular offered some excellent additional support which we'll take up next week.

**Sir George Howarth MPs letter**, composed by SHAC, received a written reply from **Baroness Scott** who oversees the Department for Levelling Up. She also offered to meet him for a discussion. You can see Howarth's letter and Scott's reply [here](#).

The accusations in Howarth's letter compelled **the G15 Group** of large, London based housing associations to pen a defensive reply published first in Inside Housing. Fiona Fletcher-Smith from L&Q chairs the group and blames rising costs such as insurance, but fails to address the widespread inaccuracies. Their solution is to call for yet more money from the taxpayer to be syphoned into their coffers.

Their coordinated response shows they are now feeling threatened, and their finger-wagging was also covered [Housing Today](#) (no paywall).

Read [Carl Davis's excellent dissection](#) of the G15's response, exposing their guilt, and showing how a recent court case undermines their claims.

## Petition

Our petition continues to climb and currently **ranks 27th out of 1,445 entries** on the Parliamentary Petitions website. It is now touching **16,900 signatures** which is fantastic. Please sign and share ([here](#)) if you haven't already. All signatures are hidden, unlike other public petitions.

The petition's growth has attracted its own publicity and led to a SHAC representative being interviewed for a **BBC Politics East** article.

The three prospective general election candidates who formed a panel on the programme all agreed that tougher regulation needs to be part of a new suite of measures to protect tenants and residents. Our message is beginning to stick. See the full programme [here](#).

**Social media shares:** [Facebook](#) ~ [Twitter](#) ~ [Instagram](#)

## SHAC Uncensored

In the last week, SHAC has resisted no less than three attempts at censorship by housing associations. This included a refusal by the Hyde chief executive to attend a long-awaited meeting unless we dropped one of our delegates. No reason was given: there was no Tribunal underway nor allegations of inappropriate behaviour.

We can expect more of these attempts as housing associations are collectively held to account by campaigners. Read more [here](#).

**Social media shares:** [Facebook](#) ~ [Twitter](#) ~ [Instagram](#)

## Social Housing Finance Conference Picket

We followed the money last week all the way to the Social Housing Finance Conference at a swanky - and overly guarded venue in central London.

We were joined by activists from Homes for All, Housing Rebellion, and the Unite Housing Workers Branch - plus Izzy, SHAC's new furry mascot (left). The sun shone and we made some noise.

See more pics of the day [here](#).



## SHAC's Thriving WhatsApp Communities

Our WhatsApp groups are proving to be a great way to bring tenants and residents together so that they can share experiences and plan action.

The main SHAC Campaigns group is open to all. Others are landlord specific. We've recently added A2 Dominion to the list. Click the relevant link below to join.

- **[SHAC Campaigns](#)**

- **[Clarion](#)**
- **[Hyde](#)**
- **[MTVHA](#)**
- **[Notting Hill Genesis](#)**
- **[Riverside / One](#)**
- **[Housing](#)**
- **[L&Q](#)**
- **[Southern](#)**
- **[Peabody](#)**
- **[Guinness / SBHA](#)**
- **[Home Group](#)**
- **[Wandle](#)**
- **[Councils](#)**
- **[THCH](#)**
- **[A2 Dominion](#)**

If you don't have WhatsApp, you can download it to your phone and computer [here](#). You can also mute it if you don't want notifications each time someone posts a comment.



## Nextdoor Network

Posting a message on the Nextdoor app is one great way to encourage tenants and residents from your landlord (or other housing associations) to join SHAC and build critical strength.

### Join Nextdoor

Nextdoor is a Facebook-style social networking site that links people in the same locality. You can find out more and get set up [here](#).

Some of our members have been very successful in using it to raise awareness of SHAC's work, in one case getting 1,800 views for a single post, and recruiting neighbours who are also residents of her landlord.

## Missed an Update?

Previous issues of SHAC Action can be downloaded [here](#).

## Take Action

[Sign the Unfair & Uncapped Pledge](#) | [Make a Donation](#) | [Join an Event](#)

## Follow SHAC



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