

HOUSING NIGHTMARES

Mould and damp in our council home is making my family ill

Elan Sumon says despite promises of being rehomed, they are still living in the property



Elan Sumon and his family say their Hammersmith home is covered in mould



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Money People Reporter

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Elan Sumon and his family often wear their jackets inside their home to keep warm. Some months, they run the heating 24 hours a day leading to costly bills.

Sumon, 37, who is a tenant of Hammersmith and Fulham Council, lives in a three-bedroom maisonette with his wife and three children.

He told *The i Paper* that almost as soon as they moved into the property in January 2019, they noticed [damp and mould](#).

He believes the conditions are now having a major impact on his family's health and all three of his children are suffering from symptoms which he believes are caused by their home environment.

“We have been suffering for almost seven years from mould, damp, extreme cold, leaks, draughts and numerous repair issues,” said Sumon. “All three of my children suffer from severe respiratory problems, as do we.

“We have also developed multiple health issues and suffer from extreme colds and severely blocked noses.”

Sumo, who has a 13-year-old daughter and two sons aged 11 and eight, says his sons have chest deformities which he believes are caused by the respiratory issues and his daughter has had her hair fall out and her nails fall off, which he believes is a result of being exposed to mould and fungus.





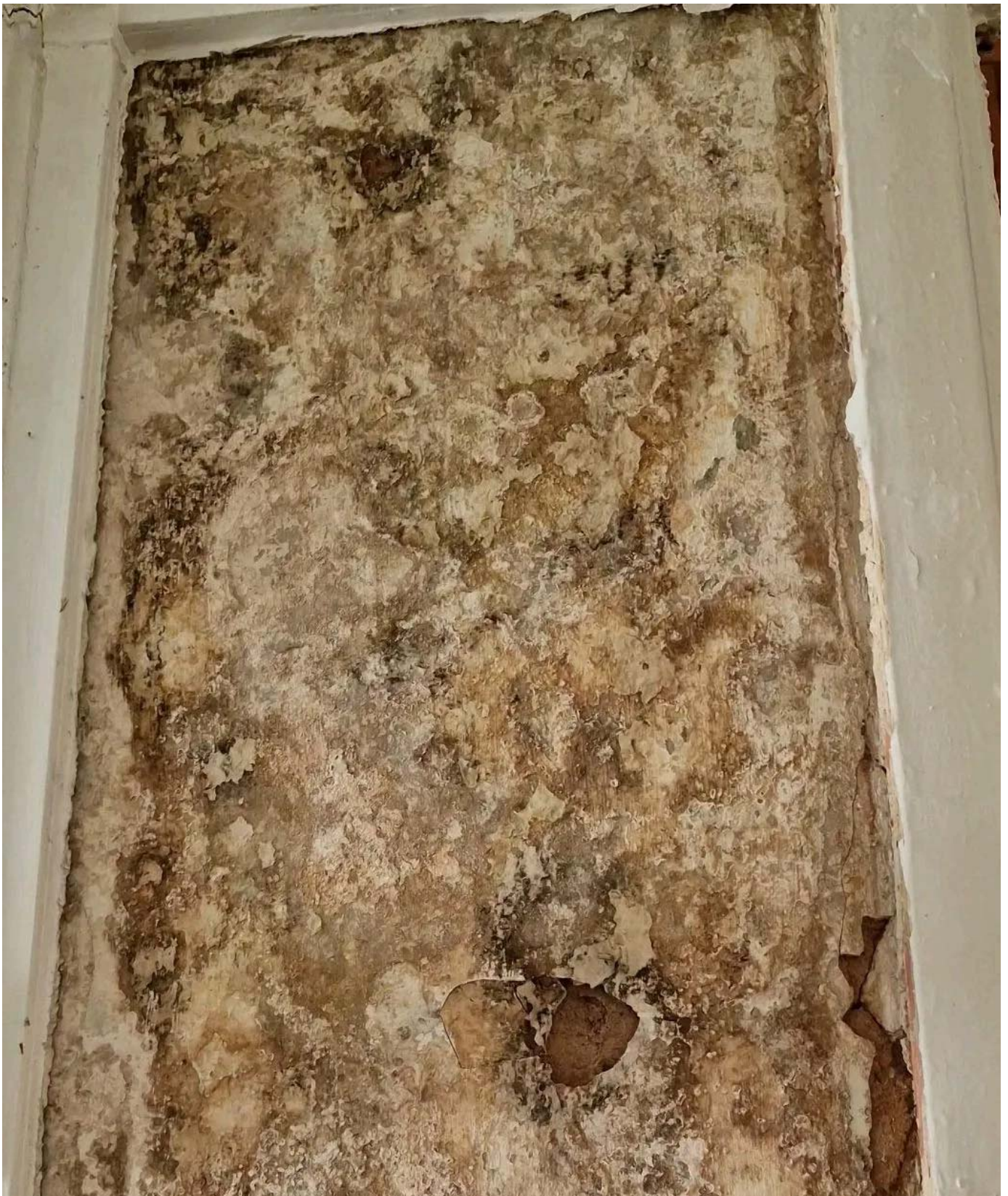
Elan Sumon claims a mouldy and damp home is making his family ill and despite promises of being rehomed, they are still living there

Sumon says he has repeatedly complained to Hammersmith and Fulham Council about the issues. He claims in 2023, after someone from the council visited his home, he was told they would be moved out within a week.

He then says a day later, he was informed they had to bid for properties and would be given first priority. However, two-and-a-half years on, they are still waiting to be rehoused.

Sumon explained that to keep their home ventilated to prevent the damp and mould, they have to keep the windows open all the time.

But this makes their home extremely cold and during the winter, he says the family wear their jackets inside the home, and even sleep in them.



Elan Sumon says this is how bad one of the mouldy walls in his home became

“Our floor is so cold, even when we have the heating on,” said Sumon.

“Because it is so cold, damp and mould is always around. In January 2023, we ran the heating for 24 hours a day for three months. But the coldest wall was still cold and we were still having to wear our jackets inside.

“Every year, we have to increase how long we keep the heating on and our heating bill is very high, but it is still so cold.”

Sumon says although the mould has been cleaned, it keeps coming back. He says his children began coughing every evening and night, but were fine when they were not inside the house.



The mould that is currently behind the sink of his home

However, he says his older son started coughing permanently and he took him to the doctor. He has since been seen by a hospital doctor who has said his son's breathing is very abnormal.

“The thing that shocked me was that my son's chest seemed to be sinking in. Both my sons look



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Sumon alleges they have suffered numerous other issues in their home including boiler problems, a leak and a hole behind a kitchen unit.

Sumon is now taking Hammersmith and Fulham Council to court on a no-win no-fee basis for disrepair, mould, damp and other issues.

Suzanne Muna, secretary and co-founder of [Social Housing Action Campaign](#), which advocates to improve people's housing conditions and reduce the commercialisation of public housing, said: “Elan's case is heartbreaking, especially given how much time the family have spent trying to get their disinterested landlord to make the necessary repairs.

“It is obscene that we see so many cases sharing similar features. The tragedy of ‘[Awaab's Law](#)’ is that the government missed an opportunity to put an end to the very real suffering that chronic disrepairs – especially damp and mould – cause to people like Elan, Awaab Ishak, and their families.

“Although the law now imposes deadlines for repairs, it is fundamentally flawed because it does not empower tenants and residents to enforce it.

“We believe that this is because landlord groups have successfully lobbied the Government to keep things as they are.

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“Those experiencing hazardous disrepairs are still faced with repeatedly and pointlessly contacting their landlords, or trying to take them to court; a huge and fraught undertaking, often without any legal representation because Legal Aid doesn't stretch to housing issues.

“SHAC has urged the Government to close the enforcement gap so that people can enforce their rights more easily.”

A spokesperson for Hammersmith and Fulham Council said: “While we cannot comment on the on-going legal proceedings, we are continuing to address and deal with the issues raised by the family.

“In December 2025, we inspected the property and found no damp or mould issues in line with the national Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

“However, we remain deeply concerned about the welfare of this family’s children and are monitoring the situation closely.

“We will continue to carry out repairs when needed to ensure the family’s home remains safe and warm.”