



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Department for Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

18th June 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

East Kent Housing – Landlord Gas Safety Records

Thank you for your response to my question in yesterday's DCLG Oral Questions session.

Over the weekend it was brought to my attention that East Kent Housing have failed to keep up to date with the legally required programme of gas safety checks. On 24 May, 544 properties managed by East Kent Housing had an outdated gas safety certificate.

I have since been made aware that this number will have continued to rise steadily since that date – with up to as many as 924 properties affected on 7 June.

Whilst I welcome the action taken to date by East Kent Housing and the local authorities to re-certify affected properties, the scale of the situation that has been allowed to develop, both by East Kent Housing and the local authority landlords, is simply unacceptable.

It is imperative that the tenants affected have their gas safety certification updated as soon as possible, and I welcome any intervention the Department can make to this end.

I also have some further questions for the Department:

-Had the Department been made aware of the issue prior to my Oral Question yesterday – and if so, what actions had been taken by the Department?

-What assurances can you give on the suitability of other maintenance that provide for the health and safety of the occupants in East Kent Housing properties, such as electricals, fire safety and asbestos management?

-Given the failure of the local authorities involved to meet the relevant consumer standards that provide for the health and safety of the occupants in their homes, what intervention will the Regulator of Social Housing now make?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Duffield
MP for Canterbury, Whitstable and surrounding villages