



NORTH TYNESIDE
COMMUNITY
INDEPENDENTS

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To:

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Chronicle Live

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Rogue Landlord

In their General Election manifesto, Labour promised to transform the experience of private renting. Labour would prevent tenants being exploited and discriminated against. However, one of their own recently elected Members of Parliament turns out to be a rogue landlord. Jaz Athwal, Labour MP for Ilford South, happens to be the biggest landlord in the Commons owning 15 properties. The recent BBC investigation uncovered 7 of his flats were infested with ants and black mould. The communal areas were dirty with fire alarms hanging from the ceiling. Tenants were frightened of complaining for fear of being evicted.

In his response he said he didn't know about this and was profoundly sorry as the flats were being managed by a letting's agency. He added that the properties were rented at below market rate. He has also admitted that the properties didn't have the correct property licences. This is someone who, as Leader of Redbridge Council brought in those very licences and declared to rogue landlords "we are coming for you". Strangely, he is still an elected councillor and may be claiming his allowance. He has also admitted that he does not rent to those receiving housing benefit. Thus preventing those on low incomes accessing his not-so desirable properties.

The London's Renters Union have called for Jaz Athwal to stand down in a statement they say he has left tenants facing toxic mould and dangerous disrepair. He has broken laws on licensing, which is a key part of the tenant safety system.



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Keir Starmer purged the Labour left before the election to replace sitting MP's and candidates with what John Rentoul (The Independent) described as Stormtroopers. Starmer had loyalists parachuted in to replace who would be loyal and not likely to challenge his authority. Already we have seen 7 MPs suspended by the Labour Party for voting against the 2-child benefit cap. Jaz Athwal replaced left winger Sam Tarry. His crime? To stand on a picket line with striking railway workers. Having previously worked for a Rail Union.

We have had a change of Government and, it's safe to say, not many could stand to have another 5 more years of the Tories. However, it is starting to feel like Labour are just rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. If the public is going to regain trust in politicians, they need to practice what they preach instead of "do what I say, not what I do".

Sincerely,

Cathy Davis

North Tyneside Community Independent



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