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**WEEKENDER**

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## News

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### 'I DON'T WANT A PALACE' SAYS EVICTED TENANT

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**A secure tenant has been evicted from her home on the Heygate Estate after losing a court battle to stay in her home.**

Amelework Gete, known as Amelia, (pictured), has lived in Swanbourne since 1995, first as a temporary tenant for eleven years before gaining a secure tenancy in 2006.

For the last two months she has lived with no boiler, which she says has affected her health, as she suffers from a bronchial complaint, but she was finally forced out of her home on Monday.

She admitted she had been given five direct offers by housing officers, but when asked why she refused them she stated they did not meet her requests. After subsequently

taking on the council in court she finally lost out this week.

She told the 'News': "One of the housing officers said to me that I am looking for Buckingham Palace, and told me I won't get that. But I am not looking for Buckingham Palace - I just want somewhere nearby which is near my friends who support me.

"They think I am fussy, but I am just worried about my health so this is all I am after." Amelia spoke to us during her eviction and told us she was being moved to a property in Congreve Street, that she had turned down previously.

Cllr Ian Wingfield, the Cabinet member for housing, said: "We don't want to do this and it is an absolute last resort in this particular case. We go to great lengths to find alternative permanent accommodation for people on the Heygate, help with removals and we give them a home-loss payment.

"However, it is preferable for people to accept one of the many suitable, permanent homes we have offered them. There are always one or two individuals in this situation who are determined to stay put whatever the council offers. The fact that thousands of residents have been successfully re-housed tends to be overshadowed by one such case."

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