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Councillor Richard Watts
Leader of the Council

Labour Member for Tollington Ward

Date: 8th October 2014

Vince Passfield
Ron Todd House
33-37 Moreland Street
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Dear Vince,

Thank you for your letter regarding the MIPIM property fair in Olympia later this month.

I can assure you that neither I nor anyone else from Islington Council will be attending the event.

Like you, we are deeply concerned at lack of genuinely affordable housing in London that is forcing many on low and middle incomes out of the capital and the increase in foreign investors who are pushing up housing prices to the detriment of our residents. This is why building and campaigning for extra council homes in our borough is a key priority for Islington council.

Since 2010 we have undertaken one of the largest affordable house building programmes in Britain. By 2015 we will have built 2000 genuinely affordable new homes in the borough, with plans for a further 1500 more by 2018. In contrast to this Tory-led government and Tory Mayor, we are working hard to ensure that people on low incomes can still afford to live here.

Thank you again for contacting me on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Richard Watts
Leader, Islington Council

P.S. It's good my union is now based in the borough! Do get in contact if we can work together on any issues.
Richard.

**Our Ref: Cllr PJ/H5533/jcm
7th October, 2014**

**Vince Passfield
Deputy Regional Secretary
Unite the Union
Ron Todd House
33-37 Moreland Street
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**Councillor Peter John
Leader of the Council**
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for South Camberwell Ward

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Dear Mr Passfield,

Thank you for your letter dated 30th September 2014.

Although I am unable to attend MIPIM in London this year, I do not agree with your request or the reasoning behind it. London is facing a housing crisis. That crisis cannot be solved by Councils merely working with progressive groups and policy makers – that will build no new homes. What London needs is a vibrant private and public sector building new homes in every part of the Capital.

But, unless and until we have a government which is prepared to really put public money into home-building, those of us with responsibility for housing Londoners will have to continue working with the private sector to ensure that we can deliver as many homes as we can for people of all incomes.

In Southwark we have made a commitment to build 11,000 new council homes at social rents – more than any other council in the country. Instead of making requests to boycott MIPIM, Unite may wish to congratulate us on our plans and work to encourage other local authorities to play their part in genuinely solving this city's housing crisis.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

