



Maria Sousa outside her house in South London (Image: Copyright Unknown)

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Family's leaky flat is so damp they're woken up by water 'raining' on them

The family, who live in south London, are forced to sleep in wet beds and often come home to find water running down the walls

By Robert Firth & Katie L Wilson, News Reporter

13:25, 1 Feb 2022



4 COMMENTS

The conditions of a family's council flat are so bad, they're forced to sleep in wet beds, they claim.

Maria Sousa, a cleaner who lives on the Central Hill Estate in Gipsy Hill, south London, says she often returns home from work to water running down the walls of her home.

The 56-year-old claims that the refugee kids she looks after are sometimes woken up by water dripping on them from the ceiling, and she runs a dehumidifier all day to stop damp ruining the walls.

She told **MyLondon**: "It starts raining in the bedrooms. There has been water falling down into the bed. It makes a horrible mess.

"If it rains I can't sleep in my bed. It comes down and drips onto the bed. Sometimes I have children sleeping here and they wake up.

"It has been going on for two years. I leave in the morning and when I come back in the afternoon the bed is wet.

"I have to have the dehumidifier on all day or water comes and rains down the walls."



Damp from ceiling leak in one of Maria Sousa's bedrooms (Image: Copyright Unknown)

Maria has been living in her home for 20 years, but the damp issues only started two years ago.

She believes the underlying problem is a leaking roof, which needs to be fixed.

Despite repeated phone calls to the council asking for them to sort the issues out, she says nothing has been done.

She said: "We've had people Lambeth Council have sent come a couple of times and all they do is take pictures and say 'we will call in a couple of days' and we hear nothing."



anxiety



Damage from damp in one of Maria Sousa's rooms (Image: Copyright Unknown)

In a statement, Lambeth Council said: "Ensuring our council homes are safe and well-maintained for all our tenants is a top priority for Lambeth Council.

"Since 2010, Lambeth has suffered unprecedented cuts in funding, including money the Council would have otherwise been able to invest in repairs and maintenance to improve estates across the borough.

"We have, however, invested hundreds of millions of pounds in the drive to bring our council homes up to the Lambeth Housing Standard (LHS).

"Lambeth has also concentrated on making improvements to day-to-day repairs and maintenance, including assigning 10 new firms and a brand new in-house repairs team to the task since this summer.

"These improvements demonstrate our determination to provide a better service to tenants. We're committed to continuing these improvements, and acting quickly to resolve problems when they are brought to our attention."

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Insurance?

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Tenants cannot take out insurance to cover roof repairs that is the responsibility of the landlord...in this case the council

REPLY  1



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