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# Family trapped in leaky London flat so bad they're forced to sleep in soaking wet beds

They return home to water running down the walls

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▶ Maria Sousa outside her home on the Central Hill estate (Image: Robert Firth)

A South London family's flat is so damp they are woken up by water 'raining' on them while in bed.

Maria Sousa, a cleaner, 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 awoken by water dripping on them from the ceiling.

She has to run a dehumidifier all day to stop damp ruining the walls of the rooms in her house on the Central Hill Estate in **Gipsy Hill**.

**READ MORE:** [Families on South London estate fear their homes will be bulldozed after council gives go-ahead](#)

She said: "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 drops 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.

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



Leaking ceiling in Maria Sousa's house (Image: Robert Firth)

Maria has been living in her home on the Central Hill Estate 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 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."

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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.



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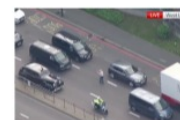
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"These improvements demonstrate our determination to provide a better service to tenants. We're committed to continuing these improvements, and acting quickly to resolve problems when they are brought to our attention."

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**Bunny66** • JANUARY 31, 2022

The council say they are starting to do repairs to the properties just because she houses refugees dont give her priority, there are worst properties out there waiting for repair

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