

STATEMENT BY JOE BANKS

I'm a Bristol City Council leaseholder and I've been told that I can only communicate with the leaseholder representative that attends the Housing Management Board by submitting any concerns or questions I have to the council's Tenant Participation team, who will then assess them and pass them on to the leaseholder representative if they deem fit. This is an absurd situation. How can I have someone representing me who I cannot communicate with directly?

If the council are filtering concerns from leaseholders this is also likely to impede the flow of information to the Housing Management Board and diminish the understanding of councillors and officers around genuine issues on the ground.

Is this the Chair's understanding of how this process should work? Unfortunately I've not been able to get an answer to this having emailed him three times on the issue but not received a single response.

I feel strongly that there should be a direct line of communication between leaseholders and the leaseholder representative, and that one of the methods of establishing that should be a regular meeting exclusively for leaseholders.

At the very least, I would like to be able to discuss this possibility with the leaseholder representative, whose contact details have been withheld from me.