



Clearing House
St Mungo's
5th Floor, 3 Thomas More Square
London E1W 1YN

31st May 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The Clearing House provides supported housing in London for people with a history of rough sleeping. All properties are self-contained one-bed or studio flats and are provided by housing associations as part of the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI). Tenants of these flats are supported by Tenancy Sustainment Teams (TSTs), who provide a floating support service.

This service is a partnership with approximately housing associations, such as Sapphire Independent Housing who provide the accommodation, two Tenancy Sustainment Teams to deliver the support and over 40 organisations, representing approximately 150 individual services who refer people sleeping rough from the street, hostels and other supported housing projects. The partnership is coordinated by the Clearing House on behalf of the Greater London Authority. Tenants are provided with a fixed-term assured shorthold tenancy and are supported to find independent accommodation once they no longer require support.

Sapphire Independent Housing has been a key partner in The Rough Sleepers' Initiative (RSI) since the scheme's inception in 1992 and has ring fenced properties exclusively for the use of current and former rough sleepers. These properties represent a lifeline for clients exiting services for rough sleepers and a vital transitional step from supported accommodation to independent living. Based on data provided by CHAIN (the Combined Homelessness And Information Network) we can show that 92% of tenants have never returned to rough sleeping in the 27 years of the partnership.

I understand that Sapphire Independent Housing are proposing to develop a self-contained single-person occupancy studio flat to be given RSI designation, on a fixed-term basis, and that planning permission has been denied. I would please urge you to reconsider this position, as RSI designated properties represent a lifeline to our service users. RSI tenancies represent stability whilst clients rebuild their lives, recover from homelessness and learn the skills to live independently. This cannot happen without an adequate supply of properties, and without the support of organisations such as Sapphire Independent Housing tackling the issue in creative ways.

If you would like to discuss further please do feel free to get in touch 020 3856 6008 / ch@stungos.org.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Laybourn

Manager - Clearing House

