

Cabinet – 1 December 2022

Questions from Councillors

1 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor Dan Swords (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration):

Following the terrible news about Awaab Ishak what work has Harlow Council done to inspect it's housing stock to ensure that our properties are free of mould and that damp management and damp controls are in place and being used properly?

Reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration):

The harrowing case of Awaab Ishak highlights the potentially devastating effects of damp and mould. Any case of damp and mould must be treated with absolute seriousness. We are reviewing every case of damp and mould in our properties and will do all it takes to deal with all issues appropriately and immediately. I have put in place changes to internal processes with immediate effect which I am confident will improve our response to any such case and we keep this under daily review from now on.

As the Secretary of State Michael Gove has made clear, it is absolutely not acceptable to pass these problems as a 'lifestyle issue'. No one in our town should have to live in a home plagued with damp and mould – that should not be a high bar to set – and that is why we will be taking real action to address all cases.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Vince:

What specific changes have been made?

Supplementary reply from Councillor Dan Swords:

I will arrange for a written reply to be sent to you.