

CrownResidentsAgainstSellOff

NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate

CROWN ESTATE DECIDES TO SELL AFFORDABLE HOUSING – RESIDENTS “DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED”

Residents have now been informed that the Crown Estate is determined to press ahead to sell its stock of affordable housing in London despite nearly unanimous opposition.

The Crown’s consultation exercise, which concluded in March, showed that 99.9% of the residents were against the sale – only two out of 1,536 were in favour. The sale was also opposed by MPs and councilors from all political parties, local councils, the Mayor of London and other stakeholders. The crystal clear message that “the sale should not proceed” has been ignored.

The Crown Estate is now starting to discuss the proposed sale with a broad range of potential buyers after which there will be further consultation with residents and stakeholders.

The Crown Residents’ Associations will now consult with the residents and consider an appropriate course of action. The next step will be to look carefully at the conditions that the Crown Estate Commissioners seek to impose on a new purchaser, including the protection of tenants’ legal rights and the maintenance of key worker provision. The Residents’ Associations will need to look very carefully at the track record of any potential purchaser. They will continue to represent the views of the residents as the process continues.

Ben Bowling, Chair of the Crown Residents’ Association (Millbank) said:

“The Crown Estate’s decision to press ahead despite almost unanimous opposition is deeply disappointing. Many residents feel let down by the Crown’s decision to abandon them after nearly a century of good housing management. Once we are informed about the proposed purchaser and what assurances are being offered, we will look carefully at the detail before deciding what to do next.”

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