



FPRA
FEDERATION OF PRIVATE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

P O Box 10271
EPPING
CM16 9DB

Telephone Number:
0871 200 3324

E-mail: info@fpra.org.uk
Website: www.fpra.org.uk

The Voice of Leaseholders

The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd.
PO Box 10271
Epping, CM16 9DB
E-mail. info@fpra.org.uk.
Web. www.fpra.org.uk.
Main Telephone Number: 0871 200 3324

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (24 March 2009)

WHERE WAS YOUR MP FOR WARM HOMES VOTE LAST WEEK? ASKS FPRA

The Federation of Private Residents Association are today asking why so few MP's turned up last Friday when MPs voted on a new parliamentary bill aimed at ending fuel poverty.

The Bill was just 11 votes short of the number it needed to make progress.

Just 10% of Conservative MPs , 7% Labour MPs and 71% Lib Dem MP's were in Parliament to support the Bill. Despite having nearly three quarters of Lib Dems present it was not enough to stop the Government blocking this important Bill for those living in leasehold flats.

Federation Chairman Bob Smytherman said:

“The Fuel Poverty Bill was ‘talked out’ by the Government on Friday because not enough MPs turned up to support it. It needed 100 MPs but it only got 89.

“This is a crying shame. With millions of leaseholders across Britain struggling to afford to heat their flats, this Bill is desperately needed.

“With such a narrow margin of failure it is really disappointing that so many MP's were not in Parliament to support this important Bill.

“The Bill, proposed by Liberal Democrat MP David Heath and sponsored by my own local Conservative MP Peter Bottomley, would deliver a massive home insulation programme which would halve the energy needed to heat the average

home. And it would end the scandal of those who use pre-pay meters – generally the least well-off – paying higher rates for their gas and electricity.

“Our best hope now is to put as much pressure as possible on the Government to change their minds and support the Bill. Without government support I am afraid it looks doomed.”

Campaign groups such as Consumer Focus and Age Concern have condemned the Government for blocking the Bill’s progress. Help the Aged have said that, “Millions of older people... will be devastated and dismayed by this result.”

What they are saying

Help the Aged

"Millions of older people who have just suffered through one of the coldest winters in years will be devastated and dismayed by this result. The Government has shown a tragic lack of urgency in addressing fuel poverty. It seems unable to recognise the scale of the problem which for some older people can be a life and death issue."

Press statement from Mervyn Kohler, Special Adviser to Help the Aged, 20 March 2009

Consumer Focus

"We are dismayed that the Government has talked out a Bill to end fuel poverty. The failure of this Bill is a devastating blow for millions of the most vulnerable pensioners, families and disabled people who will be left struggling in fuel poverty. ... This is a sad day for those who are facing a daily battle to afford to heat their homes."

Jonathan Stearn, energy expert for Consumer Focus, 20 March 2009

Age Concern

"This is a huge let-down for the 2.75 million older people living in fuel poverty and many will question why a Government which claims to be concerned about fuel poverty has acted in such a cynical way."

Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern, 20 March 2009

The Times

"Devastating blow" for households in fuel poverty (headline)

"The Fuel Poverty Bill has been thrown out of parliament because not enough MPs could be bothered to vote."

The Times, 20 March 2009

ENDS.

All Press Enquiries:

For further information and case studies, contact:-

Chief Executive: Robert Levene

Chairman: Bob Smytherman

Main Telephone Number:
0871 200 3324
Email:robertlevene@fpra.org.uk

Home (01903) 507073
Mobile: 07867 562538
Direct email: Bob@fpra.org.uk

For further information:-

Rebecca Jones
Fuel Poverty Coordinator -
working on behalf of the West Sussex
Healthy Homes Partnership
Direct line 01903 737537
Mobile 07733 125702

Notes to editors

NB. A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (usually 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).

How they voted

	Vote	Name	Party
		AYES	
1.	Aye	Ainsworth, Mr. Peter	C
2.	Aye	Alexander, Danny	Ld
3.	Aye	Baker, Norman	Ld
4.	Aye	Beith, rh Sir Alan	Ld
5.	Aye	Beresford, Sir Paul	C
6.	Aye	Bottomley, Peter	C
7.	Aye	Brake, Tom	Ld
8.	Aye	Breed, Mr. Colin	Ld
9.	Aye	Brooke, Annette	Ld
10.	Aye	Burstow, Mr. Paul	Ld
11.	Aye	Burt, Lorely	Ld
12.	Aye	Byers, rh Mr. Stephen	L
13.	Aye	Cable, Dr. Vincent	Ld
14.	Aye	Caton, Mr. Martin	L
15.	Aye	Clark, Ms Katy	L
16.	Aye	Corbyn, Jeremy	L
17.	Aye	Cousins, Jim	L
18.	Aye	Cox, Mr. Geoffrey	C
19.	Aye	Davey, Mr. Edward	Ld
20.	Aye	Dobson, rh Frank	L
21.	Aye	Dowd, Jim	L
22.	Aye	Duddridge, James	C
23.	Aye	Dunne, Mr. Philip	C

24.	Aye	Farron, Tim	Ld
25.	Aye	Featherstone, Lynne	Ld
26.	Aye	Field, rh Mr. Frank	L
27.	Aye	Foster, Mr. Don	Ld
28.	Aye	Gidley, Sandra	Ld
29.	Aye	Godsiff, Mr. Roger	L
30.	Aye	Goldsworthy, Julia	Ld
31.	Aye	Green, Damian	C
32.	Aye	Greening, Justine	C
33.	Aye	Grogan, Mr. John	L
34.	Aye	Gummer, rh Mr. John	C
35.	Aye	Hancock, Mr. Mike	Ld
36.	Aye	Hands, Mr. Greg	C
37.	Aye	Harris, Dr. Evan	Ld
38.	Aye	Harvey, Nick	Ld
39.	Aye	Heald, Mr. Oliver	C
40.	Aye	Heath, Mr. David	Ld
41.	Aye	Hemming, John	Ld
42.	Aye	Hendry, Charles	C
43.	Aye	Hoey, Kate	L
44.	Aye	Hollobone, Mr. Philip	C
45.	Aye	Holmes, Paul	Ld
46.	Aye	Hopkins, Kelvin	L
47.	Aye	Horam, Mr. John	C
48.	Aye	Horwood, Martin	Ld
49.	Aye	Howarth, David	Ld
50.	Aye	Howarth, Mr. Gerald	C
51.	Aye	Hoyle, Mr. Lindsay	L
52.	Aye	Hughes, Simon	Ld
53.	Aye	Huhne, Chris	Ld
54.	Aye	Hunter, Mark	Ld
55.	Aye	Jackson, Glenda	L
56.	Aye	Jones, Lynne	L
57.	Aye	Keetch, Mr. Paul	Ld
58.	Aye	Kramer, Susan	Ld
59.	Aye	Lamb, Norman	Ld
60.	Aye	Leech, Mr. John	Ld
61.	Aye	Linton, Martin	L
62.	Aye	Loughton, Tim	C
63.	Aye	McCafferty, Chris	L
64.	Aye	McDonnell, John	L
65.	Aye	Moore, Mr. Michael	Ld
66.	Aye	Mulholland, Greg	Ld

67.	Aye	Öpik, Lembit	Ld
68.	Aye	Owen, Albert	L
69.	Aye	Pelling, Mr. Andrew	Independent
70.	Aye	Randall, Mr. John	C
71.	Aye	Reid, Mr. Alan	Ld
72.	Aye	Riordan, Mrs. Linda	L
73.	Aye	Rowen, Paul	Ld
74.	Aye	Russell, Bob	Ld
75.	Aye	Salter, Martin	L
76.	Aye	Skinner, Mr. Dennis	L
77.	Aye	Steen, Mr. Anthony	C
78.	Aye	Stunell, Andrew	Ld
79.	Aye	Taylor, Matthew	Ld
80.	Aye	Teather, Sarah	Ld
81.	Aye	Truswell, Mr. Paul	L
82.	Aye	Turner, Dr. Desmond	L
83.	Aye	Viggers, Sir Peter	C
84.	Aye	Webb, Steve	Ld
85.	Aye	Williams, rh Mr. Alan	L
86.	Aye	Williams, Mark	Ld
87.	Aye	Williams, Mr. Roger	Ld
88.	Aye	Williams, Stephen	Ld
89.	Aye	Wright, Jeremy	C
		<i>Tellers for the Ayes:</i>	
	<i>Aye teller</i>	<i>Dan Rogerson and</i>	Ld
	<i>Aye teller</i>	<i>Richard Younger-Ross</i>	Ld
		NOES	
1.	No	Brown, rh Mr. Nicholas	L
2.	No	Cousins, Jim	L
		<i>Tellers for the Noes:</i>	
	<i>No teller</i>	<i>Stephen Pound and</i>	L
	<i>No teller</i>	<i>Mr. Andrew Dismore</i>	L

The FPRA exists to advise and support leaseholders (flat owners) and residential management companies, to lobby for the interests of leaseholders, to be a forum for debate and to keep members informed of legal and practical developments in leasehold matters. The FPRA was set up in 1971 as a non-political, non-profit making voluntary organisation by a group of private sector residents' associations. It became a limited company in 1986. Its directors are unpaid volunteers, and have long experience in leasehold matters.

This email was sent from or on behalf of The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd.

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Main Office.

The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd,

P O Box 10271

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Essex CM16 9DB

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