

Our Ref: Cllr PJ/H5533/jcm
7th October, 2014

Vince Passfield
Deputy Regional Secretary
Unite the Union
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Councillor Peter John
Leader of the Council
Labour Member
for South Camberwell Ward

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Dear Mr Passfield,

Thank you for your letter dated 30th September 2014.

Although I am unable to attend MIPIM in London this year, I do not agree with your request or the reasoning behind it. London is facing a housing crisis. That crisis cannot be solved by Councils merely working with progressive groups and policy makers – that will build no new homes. What London needs is a vibrant private and public sector building new homes in every part of the Capital.

But, unless and until we have a government which is prepared to really put public money into home-building, those of us with responsibility for housing Londoners will have to continue working with the private sector to ensure that we can deliver as many homes as we can for people of all incomes.

In Southwark we have made a commitment to build 11,000 new council homes at social rents – more than any other council in the country. Instead of making requests to boycott MIPIM, Unite may wish to congratulate us on our plans and work to encourage other local authorities to play their part in genuinely solving this city's housing crisis.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

