



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Laura Church
Chief Executive Officer
Bedford Borough Council

19th March 2025

Dear Laura,

Re: Quarterly Update on Cleat Hill

Firstly, may I again thank you, Mayor Tom Wootton and the staff at Bedford Borough Council who did so much to assist residents affected by the explosion at Cleat Hill. I know that your work and attention to this issue continues and it is appreciated.

I thought it would be helpful, whilst there remain issues outstanding, to have a regular update from the Council on some matters where you may be able to provide insight that can be shared more widely.

I would be grateful, therefore, for your thoughts and responses on the following:

1. Is gas still leaking from the borehole?
2. If so, what is the magnitude, form and dispersion of gas and what is the plan for mitigation?
3. Which agency has ultimate authority over the security of the borehole and measures taken, since October 2024, to secure the site?
4. The council has provided residents with alarms for their homes. Please can you advise the dates and circumstances of any alarms that have been set off since installation?
5. What technical support or expertise has been provided to the council by the national government or national agencies?
6. What is the current estimate of costs incurred by Bedford Borough Council related to the incidents at Cleat Hill, and how much of these costs have been reimbursed by the national government?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Fuller".

Richard Fuller CBE MP

cc: Mayor Tom Wootton