# Single mother pleads for permanent home after nearly a decade in temporary accommodation



A single mother from London has expressed desperation for a permanent home after nearly ten years spent in various temporary accommodations. Trina Downey, 35, was relocated in June 2016 from her private two-bedroom property in Streatham Hill due to a severe infestation of rats and mice. Since then, she has endured a series of emergency moves that have led her across several parts of the capital, each time facing new housing challenges.

Initially placed in a two-bedroom property in Catford, Trina lived there for just over a year before being moved again due to damp issues. Her next relocation was to New Cross, but that too ended abruptly as Trina faced another emergency move when the roof of her accommodation collapsed. Following that incident, she was assigned to a temporary home in Dulwich, where she again encountered significant problems involving rodent infestations and damp conditions. In August 2021, after two years in Dulwich, she was moved to Battersea, where she currently resides.

Recent developments have added to her housing woes, as her landlord announced intentions to sell the Battersea property on January 30, leaving her with a deadline to vacate by June 5. Facing the prospect of yet another temporary accommodation arranged by Lambeth Council, Trina voiced her distress regarding the emotional toll this rollercoaster of living situations has inflicted upon her. "The past nine years have been emotional and stressful," she stated. "I am totally fed up, and that’s why I think I've got some illnesses. I get sick by stressing myself out. I would cry if I got moved to a permanent property because it’s about time and I wouldn't be able to believe it," she commented.

Trina also lamented her financial constraints that prevent her from renting privately. Currently, she pays rent to the Lambeth Council, with her landlord responsible for the private rental. Reflecting on her initial home in Streatham Hill, she described the issues that led to her numerous relocations: "The rats, the damp, the roof collapsed, but that is why they have moved us because of the multiple issues. The Dulwich property was the biggest problem; a surveyor conducted a risk assessment and it was put down as a danger risk one."

With each move, Trina's living conditions have changed, and she recounted the loneliness she felt during her time in Catford, where she described her accommodations as minimal. "It was just a bunk bed, and I always used to cry on it. I just want a permanent home, and it's so frustrating," she added.

In response to Trina's situation, a spokesperson for Lambeth Council acknowledged the difficulties in securing permanent housing in the area, citing an "acute shortage of affordable accommodation." They assured that the council is committed to providing suitable accommodation to those in need, stating, "We are aware of Ms Downey’s concerns. The suitability of temporary accommodation for our residents is of paramount importance, and we will continue to respond to the concerns of our residents to ensure that any accommodation provided is of a reasonable standard."

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/> - This site could provide information on housing policies and challenges in the Lambeth area.
* <https://www.gov.uk/> - The UK Government website offers resources on national housing policies and initiatives.
* <https://www.crisis.org.uk/> - Crisis UK provides insights into homelessness and housing issues across the UK.
* <https://www.shelter.org.uk/> - Shelter UK offers resources and information on housing rights and challenges.
* <https://www.london.gov.uk/> - The Greater London Authority's website may provide information on London's broader housing situation.