

COUNCILLOR ROSS GARROD

Leader of the Council
(Labour, Longthornton Ward)



Mr Hannah Gurga
Director General
Association of British Insurers

London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

Sent by email

Email: Leaders.office@merton.gov.uk

Date: 06/09/2022

Dear Ms Gurga,

Re: Galpin's Road

I am writing to you on behalf of my residents living on Galpin's Road, where there was a gas explosion on 8 August 2022. Tragically a four-year-old girl, Sahara Salman, was killed and two other residents remain in hospital. Over 500 residents have been displaced into temporary accommodation, many through support from the Council. In recent weeks some residents have been able to return back to their property but for others their return will be some time yet as their property is within a crime scene cordon.

As you will be aware, we have been supporting residents to make contact with their insurance company to unlock further help that may be needed. There have been some concerns expressed that if they went down this route they would be unfairly penalised with an increase to their premiums in subsequent years. I would be very grateful for any reassurance you might be able to provide to my residents.

Secondly, several residents have informed me that they have exorbitant excess fees that they cannot afford to pay. I would be very grateful if you could inform me as to whether there is any help for residents who find themselves in a financially precarious position.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Garrod". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader of the London Borough of Merton