Documenting disrepair issues using film and social media

Using tools such as a smartphone or tablet to record and report your own news can help bring attention to your issue or campaign. This style of self-reporting or ‘Citizen Journalism’ has become popular because of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, which makes it possible to share images and videos instantly with people all around the globe. Documenting problems with your home or building also helps to begin building a body of evidence as proof, and you don’t need any special skills to be able to do this!

Points to consider

- Film in landscape mode.
- Keep videos short, 1–2 minutes at most. Allow a few seconds of silence after you press record and a few seconds before you press stop.
- Avoid filming other people without their consent.
- Avoid any TV/radio or background noise.

Videos and photos can be shared via your social media accounts. Remember to adjust your settings to ‘public’ so your posts can be reshared by others, reach more people and begin building support. Use hashtags to make topics more easily searchable such as #mould or #cladding. Consider searching for the profile names and then tagging relevant bodies into your posts, such as your landlord or local council, for example @anytown_council to make them aware, or encourage them to help resolve the problem.

This is a free resource by FixMyBlock.org, a website that aims to give tenants living in tower blocks the information and support they need to tackle problems with their homes, in particular around fire safety and dangerous living conditions. For more information visit FixMyBlock.org