



Did you know that electricity is the number one cause of fires in British homes? Yet there's no law forcing private landlords to have the electrics in their properties checked – although they have had to provide tenants with a gas safety certificate since 1998.

I sit on a Select Committee which recently released a report on the private rented sector. In it, we argue that landlords should be legally required to check the electrics in their properties, every five years or on change of tenant.

The Electrical Safety Council (ESC) has also been trying to get this made law for some time now and their research shows why.

According to the ESC, more than 1 ½ million private tenants have reported electrical faults to their landlords that were either ignored or acted on very slowly and 2 million are concerned with the electrics in their rented home. Other research claims tenants are more likely to experience an electric shock than home-owners and may be up to seven times more likely to have a house fire than home-owners.

With more than 350,000 serious injuries each year, caused by electrical accidents this is a growing concern as more and more people are having to rent privately.

If you want to check the electrical safety of your home, the ESC has a free safety app which you can download from their website at www.esc.org.uk. They also offer a tenant's information leaflet, which you can also download, or phone 020 3463 5100 for a printed copy.