

# FRA Purpose Built Blocks

<b>Responsible Person:</b>	Islington Council
<b>Auditor:</b>	{REDACTED}
<b>Location:</b>	48-79 Patrick Coman House, Skinner Street, London EC1V 4NY
<b>Area Housing Office:</b>	PURPOSE-BUILT BLOCKS - ST JOHN STREET
<b>Date of Audit</b>	21/10/2020
<b>Suggested Review</b>	



## Overall Assessment of Fire Risk

<b>Hazard from Fire:</b>	Normal
<b>Consequences Life:</b>	Moderate Harm
<b>Overall Risk from Fire:</b>	Moderate

**PRIVATE**

**THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED**

## Introduction

This report has been completed in compliance with Article 9 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the risk to life from fire, and where appropriate, to make recommendations to ensure compliance with fire safety legislation.

The assessment was completed on the situation observed while at the premises and on information provided, either verbally or in writing.

The assessment does not involve destructive exposure, and it is not always possible to see in all rooms and areas, not inspect less readily accessible areas such as above ceilings. It is therefore necessary to rely on a degree of sampling and also reasonable assumptions and judgments.

The report represents only the best judgment of the auditor involved in the preparation and is based, in part, on information provided by others, such as other staff members or contractors.

Note that, although the purpose is to place the fire risk in context, the approach to fire safety risk assessment is subjective and for guidance only.

All hazards and deficiencies identified in this fire safety risk assessment should be addressed by implementing all the recommendations contained in the action summary.

## General Building Information

### Premises Description and/or Other Relevant Information:

Underwent heating system refurbishment affecting common areas and residents flats in 2017. Lift motor rooms on flat roof. Library and museum at ground & basement level. Underground car park not used as present. Finsbury estate plant rooms relocated to rooms off car park. Escape balconies on St John St side of block. Pass through balconies providing an alternative escape from one flat to another;. Further investigations should be carried out and where appropriate remedial action taken to ensure that any pass through facility needed is maintained for immediate use."

### Brief Details of the Block Construction:

Purpose built block with reinforced concrete frame with brickwork & concrete walls/panels.

<b>Number of Floors:</b>	9 (excl basement)	<b>Total Number of Units:</b>	31
<b>Number of Emergency Exits:</b>	1	<b>Number of Employees Present:</b>	0+
<b>Approximate Number of Residents:</b>	80	<b>Maximum Number of members of the Public at any one time:</b>	30
<b>Disabled Occupants:</b>	Not Known		

### Fire Loss Experience (if known):

None Known

## Audit Details

<b>Section</b>	<b>2. Identifying the Fire Hazards</b>	
<b>Sub-Section</b>	2.1 Sources of Ignition	
Question	2.1.1 Naked flames	<b>No</b>
Question	2.1.2 Electrical sources	<b>Low Risk</b>
Question	2.1.3 Acts of nature eg lightning	<b>Low Risk</b>

<b>Sub-Section</b>	2.2 Sources of Fuel	
Question	2.2.1 Combustive materials	<b>Low Risk</b>

<b>Sub-Section</b>	2.3 Sources of Oxygen	
Question	2.3.1 Sources of oxygen other than naturally occurring?	<b>None</b>

<b>Section</b>	<b>3. Identifying People at Risk</b>	
Question	3.1 Are employees and/or visitors at risk from fire hazards?	<b>Low Risk</b>
Question	3.2 Are residents at risk from fire hazards?	<b>Low Risk</b>
Question	3.3 Are vulnerable persons at risk from the fire hazards?	<b>Low Risk</b>

<b>Section</b>	<b>4. Evaluating the Fire Hazards</b>	
Question	4.1 Do the premises have an effective smoking policy?	<b>Low Risk</b>
<i>"No Smoking" signage is displayed in the premises.</i>		
Question	4.2 Does electrical equipment or wiring appear to be free from damage or misuse?	<b>Low Risk</b>

<p><i>Electrical intake cupboards are routinely checked as part of the Estate Service Co-ordinators' inspection regime, which is documented. Estate/Caretaking Services will ensure doors remain adequately secured when not in use.</i></p>		
ACTION	Replace or repair defective trunking and/or junction box covers.	
Findings (ISSUE)	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/10/2021
ACTION	Replace or repair defective lighting as appropriate.	
Findings (ISSUE)	Defective lighting in roof access lobby adjacent to lift motor room and externally at entrance to roof.	Action & Completion By 22/10/2021
Question	4.3 Have satisfactory measures been taken to reduce the risk of arson?	<b>Low Risk</b>
<p><i>Block entry security system. CCTV on estate. Refuse &amp; recycling stored away from block.</i></p>		
ACTION	Secure doors, cupboards, risers etc to prevent unauthorised access.	
Findings (ISSUE)	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/10/2021
Question	4.4 Do the premises have any protection against acts such as lightning	<b>Yes</b>
<p><i>Lightening protection evident on building.</i></p>		
Question	4.5 Are the common and landlord areas of the premises free from an accumulation of combustible materials, storage and/or waste?	<b>Medium Risk</b>
<p><i>Islington Council operates a two tiered approach to managing communal areas dependent on the design layout. Where corridors are enclosed or substantially enclosed a zero tolerance approach will be adopted. Where blocks have an open corridor design a managed use policy will be in place, where items of limited combustibility such as door mats, plant pots etc. are generally permitted in line with the guidance note for fire prevention in communal areas. Regular inspections are carried out by Estate Service Co-ordinators or TMO staff to ensure this policy is being adhered to and that properties are kept free of an accumulation of combustible waste. A 'zero tolerance' policy will be introduced where residents are unable to adhere to a sensible managed use arrangement.</i></p>		
ACTION	Clear waste/storage/combustibles from common/Landlord areas and advise residents of the policy for waste disposal and take enforcement action where appropriate.	

Findings (ISSUE)	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/04/2021
ACTION	Clear waste/storage/combustibles from common/Landlord areas and advise residents of the policy for waste disposal and take enforcement action where appropriate.	
Findings (ISSUE)	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/04/2021
ACTION	Clear waste/storage/combustibles from common/Landlord areas and advise residents of the policy for waste disposal and take enforcement action where appropriate.	
Findings (ISSUE)	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/04/2021
Question	4.6 Are wall, ceiling or floor coverings of a fire-resistant nature?	<b>Low Risk</b>
ACTION	Remove combustible flooring.	
Findings (ISSUE)	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/04/2021
Question	4.7 Are holes in fire resistant partitions (service ducts, fire compartments or flues) within the premises adequately fire stopped?	<b>Low Risk</b>
ACTION	Inspect fire stopping within secured service risers and take remedial action as appropriate to ensure adequate fire separation is maintained.	
Findings (ISSUE)	Fire stopping in electrical riser appears inadequate. Limited access to risers as many are screwed shut..	Action & Completion By 22/10/2021
Question	4.8 Is fire separation on the means of escape routes adequately maintained?	<b>Low Risk</b>
Question	4.9 Are there arrangements to ensure the safe evacuation of the premises where it is used for sleeping?	<b>Low Risk</b>
<i>Security gates fitted within block to individual dwellings.</i>		
<i>Islington Council recognises the balance between safety and security, adopting an advisory approach to security gates/grills and warning residents of the dangers/potential delays to the fire and rescue authority. Where gates/grills hinder access/egress to more than one property they will be disabled and/or removed immediately. The Construction and Fire Safety Team (CFST) will write to residents with gates installed periodically to refresh this information. This will also be</i>		

*repeated through resident newsletters and web articles etc. periodically.*

Question	4.10 Are evacuation arrangements for vulnerable people suitable/sufficient?	<b>Low Risk</b>
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*No vulnerable people formerly identified but there may be occupants with varying degrees of physical/mental disability, in line with the general population.*

Question	4.11 Are the escape routes identified with effective signage to allow for all people to safely evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency?	<b>Yes</b>
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*Simple exit route.*

Section	5. Means of Escape	
Question	5.1 Are the available escape routes and exit widths suitable and sufficient for the number of people within the premises?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.2 Are the available escape routes and widths suitable and sufficient for the physical layout of the premises?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.3 Are all pathways corridors and escape routes (internal and external) free from obstruction or other fire risks?	<b>Low Risk</b>
<i>See 4.5.</i>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Advise residents of the requirement to keep exit doors clear of obstruction.</b>	
<b>Findings (ISSUE)</b>	<b>{REDACTED}</b>	<b>Action &amp; Completion By 22/10/2021</b>
Question	5.4 Are escape routes likely to be compromised in early stages of fire? i.e unprotected staircase or inadequate ventilation	<b>Low Risk</b>
<i>Semi-open lift lobbies.</i>		
<i>Ventilation at bottom and top of stairway, although somewhat reduced by installation of security gate to roof access.</i>		
Question	5.5 Is the lighting adequate?	<b>Yes</b>

*Evidence of emergency lighting within block on stairway and within lift lobbies..*

Question	5.6 Do all exits within the premises lead to a place of reasonable or total safety?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.7 Are dwelling front entrance doors (from random sample) of a suitably fire resisting construction for the type of property and the location?	<b>No</b>

*Islington Council has established a dedicated fire safety project team to survey all flat front entrance doors (and alternative means of escape doors where applicable) and carry out upgrade or replacement works where required, in line with recommendations made in the LGG's Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats guidance document. For tenanted properties, as a minimum upgrade works will include the installation of a self-closing device. Surveys of leasehold properties will also be carried out, with leaseholders able to opt-in to the upgrade programme. The survey/works programme will also include communal doors where applicable, to ensure means of escape routes are suitably protected.*

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Inspect front entrance door to ensure it provides 30 minutes' fire resistance.</b>	
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<b>Findings (ISSUE)</b>	<b>{REDACTED}</b>	<b>Action &amp; Completion By 22/04/2021</b>
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Question	5.8 Are the dwelling front entrance doors (from random sample) fitted with fully functional self-closing devices?	<b>No</b>
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Question	5.9 Are the fire doors within the common and landlord areas suitable and sufficient, and fitted where necessary, with intumescent strips and smoke seals?	<b>Yes</b>
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Question	5.10 Are self-closing devices provided appropriately on fire doors within the common and landlord areas? If so, are they in working order?	<b>Low Risk</b>
<b>ACTION</b>	Repair/replace/adjust self-closing mechanism on fire doors to ensure they close effectively without slamming.	
<b>Findings (ISSUE)</b>	{REDACTED}	Action & Completion By 22/10/2021
Question	5.11 Are the internal fire doors indicated with the appropriate signage	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.12 Do the doors used for means of escape from the premises open in direction of travel where necessary?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.13 Are doors used for means of escape from the premises provided with suitable fastenings that can be easily and immediately opened without the use of a key?	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Entry doors are incorporated into routine Estate Service Co-ordinators' inspections, with any repair issues raised with Estate Maintenance Team/Housing Repairs Service.</i>		
Question	5.14 Are the floor surfaces on the escape route (internal and external) free from trip/slip hazards?	<b>Low Risk</b>
Question	5.15 Are Fire Service facilities and access to the premises suitable and sufficient?	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Dry riser located at either end of the block which can be accessed via escape balconies.</i>		
Question	5.16 Are floor level indicators present and legible?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.17 Do Fire Services facilities such as dry/wet risers, door entry/lift overrides appear to be free from damage and vandalism?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	5.18 Are Fire Service facilities and controls for the premises subjected to a suitable system of maintenance and/or repair?	<b>Yes</b>
<i>DRM and WRM are inspected, maintained and tested in accordance with relevant British Standard by contractors working on behalf of Housing Property Services. Inspection/testing records are maintained by the Cyclical Testing Team.</i>		
<i>Testing of LFB access switches is incorporated into routine Estate Service Co-ordinators' inspections, with any repair issues raised with Estate Maintenance Team/Housing Repairs</i>		

Service.

*The lift overrides are tested on a monthly basis as part of the PPM maintenance visit carried out by the Lift Contractor.*

Section	6. Detection and Warning	
Question	6.1 Do the dwellings (from random sample) appear to have suitable hard wired smoke/heat detection installed?	<b>Low Risk</b>
<p><i>Mains powered smoke/heat detection (to LD2 standard) was installed extensively to tenanted properties as part of the Decent Homes programme between 2004 &amp; 2010. Since the conclusion of the Decent Homes programme, mains powered smoke/heat detection (LD2) is now installed as part of void property process and the cyclical (5 yearly), domestic electrical inspection/testing regime where it is not already provided. It is likely the majority of leasehold properties will not benefit from mains powered detection systems, although some grade F systems (battery operated) are likely to exist.</i></p>		
Question	6.2 Are methods of detection and warning within the premises considered suitable and sufficient?	<b>Yes</b>

Section	7. Emergency Plans	
Question	7.1 Based upon the overall risk of fire, evaluation of fire hazards and means of escape, is the policy of "Stay put, unless affected by smoke or fire" considered adequate for the dwellings within these premises?	<b>Yes</b>
Question	7.2 Based upon the overall risk of fire, evaluation of fire hazards and means of escape, is the policy of "Full Evacuation" considered adequate for the dwellings within these premises?	<b>N/A</b>
Question	7.3 Have emergency plans been communicated to residents and other relevant people	<b>Yes</b>

*Fire action notice displayed in entrance lobby to block.*

*The majority of purpose built blocks of flats operate on the principle that residents should 'stay put, unless directly affected by smoke, heat or fire'. This is communicated to residents through the tenant sign-up pack, regular newsletter articles and the Islington Council website, which also*

links to the LFB's 'know the plan' website. Caretakers are informed through periodic training.

Section	8. Further Surveys and Investigation	
Question	8.1 Are there any serious or suspected structural deficiencies which could lead to spread of fire beyond the dwelling of origin, warranting further investigation such as a Type 2, 3 or 4 survey?	No
Question	8.2 Are there any un-accessed areas or known voids that warrant further investigation to confirm adequate fire safety measures are in place?	No
Question	8.3 Are the external escape staircases and gangways for the premises subjected to a suitable system of periodic inspection, maintenance and repair?	Low Risk
<p><i>Estate Service Co-ordinators' inspections include all external staircases, gangways and other such areas associated with a particular block. Defects are raised via Estate Maintenance Team/Housing Repairs Service and monitored to completion through the inspection process.</i></p>		
Question	8.4 Are there other types of occupancy forming part of/or within the block (shops, offices, nurseries etc)?	No
Question	8.5 Are there any other issues which may have an impact on the fire safety of the premises?	No
Question	8.6 Are the external surfaces of the building likely to promote fire spread?	No

Section	9. Overall Assessment of Fire Risk	
Question	9.1 Evaluation of overall fire hazard	Normal
Question	9.2 Evaluation of overall consequences for life safety	Moderate Harm
Question	9.3 Overall evaluation of fire risk	Moderate
Question	9.4 The most appropriate fire strategy for this building is	Stay-put
<p><i>Stay put unless directly affected by fire, heat, smoke or asked to leave by the Fire Service.</i></p>		
Question	9.5 Height of Building	N/A

Question	9.6 Next FRA Due	N/A
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## Audit Details

Section	4. Evaluating the Fire Hazards
Action Ref	0036869
Question	4.6 Are wall, ceiling or floor coverings of a fire-resistant nature?
Action Required	Remove combustible flooring.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/04/2021
Responsible	Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management
Status	<b>OPEN</b>
Action Ref	0036868
Question	4.3 Have satisfactory measures been taken to reduce the risk of arson?
Action Required	Secure doors, cupboards, risers etc to prevent unauthorised access.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/10/2021
Responsible	Estate Maintenance Team
Status	<b>COMPLETE</b>
Action Ref	0036864
Question	4.7 Are holes in fire resistant partitions (service ducts, fire compartments or flues) within the premises adequately fire stopped?
Action Required	Inspect fire stopping within secured service risers and take remedial action as appropriate to ensure adequate fire separation is maintained.
Action Notes	Fire stopping in electrical riser appears inadequate. Limited access to risers as many are screwed shut..
Due Date	22/10/2021

Responsible	CIP / Fire Safety Works Team
Status	<b>OPEN</b>
Action Ref	0036862
Question	4.5 Are the common and landlord areas of the premises free from an accumulation of combustible materials, storage and/or waste?
Action Required	Clear waste/storage/combustibles from common/Landlord areas and advise residents of the policy for waste disposal and take enforcement action where appropriate.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/04/2021
Responsible	Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management
Status	<b>OPEN</b>
Action Ref	0036863
Question	4.5 Are the common and landlord areas of the premises free from an accumulation of combustible materials, storage and/or waste?
Action Required	Clear waste/storage/combustibles from common/Landlord areas and advise residents of the policy for waste disposal and take enforcement action where appropriate.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/04/2021
Responsible	Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management
Status	<b>OPEN</b>
Action Ref	0036861
Question	4.5 Are the common and landlord areas of the premises free from an accumulation of combustible materials, storage and/or waste?
Action Required	Clear waste/storage/combustibles from common/Landlord areas and

	advise residents of the policy for waste disposal and take enforcement action where appropriate.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/04/2021
Responsible	Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management
Status	<b>COMPLETE</b>
Action Ref	0036859
Question	4.2 Does electrical equipment or wiring appear to be free from damage or misuse?
Action Required	Replace or repair defective trunking and/or junction box covers.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/10/2021
Responsible	Estate Maintenance Team
Status	<b>COMPLETE</b>
Action Ref	0036860
Question	4.2 Does electrical equipment or wiring appear to be free from damage or misuse?
Action Required	Replace or repair defective lighting as appropriate.
Action Notes	Defective lighting in roof access lobby adjacent to lift motor room and externally at entrance to roof.
Due Date	22/10/2021
Responsible	Housing Repairs Service
Status	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Section</b>	<b>5. Means of Escape</b>

Action Ref	0036866
Question	5.7 Are dwelling front entrance doors (from random sample) of a suitably fire resisting construction for the type of property and the location?
Action Required	Inspect front entrance door to ensure it provides 30 minutes' fire resistance.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/04/2021
Responsible	Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management
Status	<b>COMPLETE</b>
Action Ref	0036867
Question	5.3 Are all pathways corridors and escape routes (internal and external) free from obstruction or other fire risks?
Action Required	Advise residents of the requirement to keep exit doors clear of obstruction.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/10/2021
Responsible	Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management
Status	<b>OPEN</b>
Action Ref	0036865
Question	5.10 Are self-closing devices provided appropriately on fire doors within the common and landlord areas? If so, are they in working order?
Action Required	Repair/replace/adjust self-closing mechanism on fire doors to ensure they close effectively without slamming.
Action Notes	{REDACTED}
Due Date	22/10/2021
Responsible	Estate Maintenance Team
Status	<b>COMPLETE</b>





**Previous O/S Actions** (as of report generation date)

None