

FRA Purpose Built Blocks

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| Responsible Person: | Islington Council |
| Auditor: | {REDACTED} |
| Location: | Fyfield, 18 Pooles Park, Six Acres Estate, London N4 3PJ |
| Area Housing Office: | PURPOSE-BUILT BLOCKS - UPPER STREET EAST |
| Date of Audit | 03/11/2020 |
| Suggested Review | |



Overall Assessment of Fire Risk

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Hazard from Fire: | Normal |
| Consequences Life: | Slight Harm |
| Overall Risk from Fire: | Tolerable |

PRIVATE

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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:

Rooftop plant rooms including water tank and lift motor rooms. No access to the water tank rooms as no access ladders. Caretakers store, and refuse bin chambers are located on the ground floor to the rear. Lift lobby and dry riser.

Brief Details of the Block Construction:

Purpose built general needs residential block. Precast concrete elements and concrete floors.

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| Number of Floors: | 12 | Total Number of Units: | 78 |
| Number of Emergency Exits: | 2 | Number of Employees Present: | 0+ |
| Approximate Number of Residents: | 200 | Maximum Number of members of the Public at any one time: | 70 |
| Disabled Occupants: | Not Known | | |

Fire Loss Experience (if known):

Not Known

Audit Details

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

| Sub-Section | 2.2 Sources of Fuel | |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Question | 2.2.1 Combustive materials | Low Risk |

| Sub-Section | 2.3 Sources of Oxygen | |
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| Question | 2.3.1 Sources of oxygen other than naturally occurring? | None |

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

| Section | 4. Evaluating the Fire Hazards | |
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| Question | 4.1 Do the premises have an effective smoking policy? | Medium Risk |
| ACTION | Remind residents of the smoking policy, monitor adherence & take enforcement action as necessary. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | {REDACTED} | Action & Completion By |

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| | | 06/05/2021 |
| Question | 4.2 Does electrical equipment or wiring appear to be free from damage or misuse? | Medium Risk |
| <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> | | |
| ACTION | Repair or replace door entry override system as appropriate to allow fire brigade access. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | {REDACTED} | Action & Completion By 06/05/2021 |
| Question | 4.3 Have satisfactory measures been taken to reduce the risk of arson? | Low Risk |
| <i>Block entry security system. CCTV on estate. Recycling stored away from block.</i> | | |
| Question | 4.4 Do the premises have any protection against acts such as lightning | Yes |
| <i>Lightening protection evident on building.</i> | | |
| Question | 4.5 Are the common and landlord areas of the premises free from an accumulation of combustible materials, storage and/or waste? | Medium Risk |
| <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> | | |
| 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 06/05/2021 |
| Question | 4.6 Are wall, ceiling or floor coverings of a fire-resistant | Low Risk |

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| | nature? | |
| Question | 4.7 Are holes in fire resistant partitions (service ducts, fire compartments or flues) within the premises adequately fire stopped? | Low Risk |
| ACTION | Inspect fire stopping within secured service risers and take remedial action as appropriate to ensure adequate fire separation is maintained. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | {REDACTED} | Action & Completion By 06/11/2021 |
| Question | 4.8 Is fire separation on the means of escape routes adequately maintained? | Low Risk |
| ACTION | Extend vent to external wall. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | The vent from the ground floor communications room currently vents into the ground floor entrance lobby/lift lobby area. The trunking for this vent should be extended across the corridor to the external wall to prevent smoke from a fire in the communications room affecting the west stairway. | Action & Completion By 06/11/2021 |
| ACTION | Ensure hatch cover is in place correctly. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | Ensure hatch cover in ground floor west lift lobby area is fully covering hole.. | Action & Completion By 06/11/2021 |
| Question | 4.9 Are there arrangements to ensure the safe evacuation of the premises where it is used for sleeping? | Low Risk |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Security gates fitted within block to individual dwellings.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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 repeated through resident newsletters and web articles etc. periodically.</i></p> | | |
| Question | 4.10 Are evacuation arrangements for vulnerable people suitable/sufficient? | Low Risk |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No vulnerable people formerly identified but there may be occupants with varying degrees of physical/mental disability, in line with the general population.</i></p> | | |
| 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? | Yes |

Simple exit routes.

| Section | 5. Means of Escape | |
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| Question | 5.1 Are the available escape routes and exit widths suitable and sufficient for the number of people within the premises? | Yes |
| Question | 5.2 Are the available escape routes and widths suitable and sufficient for the physical layout of the premises? | Yes |
| Question | 5.3 Are all pathways corridors and escape routes (internal and external) free from obstruction or other fire risks? | Low Risk |
| <i>See 4.5.</i> | | |
| Question | 5.4 Are escape routes likely to be compromised in early stages of fire? i.e unprotected staircase or inadequate ventilation | Low Risk |
| <i>Open balcony approach to flats. Louver ventilation at the top of the east & west stairways. Open-able vent at top of west stairway. Permanent ventilation in lift lobby areas.</i> | | |
| Question | 5.5 Is the lighting adequate? | Low Risk |
| <i>Emergency lighting evident in the stairways but not completely the access balconies to dwelling entrances.</i> | | |
| <i>Islington Council will install emergency lighting in purpose built blocks of flats (2 storey+) in line with its planned upgrade and renewal/cyclical improvement programme/CIP. High rise blocks (10 storey+) and those with complex layouts will be completed as a priority, with each block being assessed during the planning stages of CIP works. Properties with a simultaneous evacuation strategy will also be considered a priority.</i> | | |
| Question | 5.6 Do all exits within the premises lead to a place of reasonable or total safety? | Yes |
| 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? | Yes |
| <i>All front doors appear to be suitable for their location on open balcony approaches with escape available in two directions.</i> | | |

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| Question | 5.8 Are the dwelling front entrance doors (from random sample) fitted with fully functional self-closing devices? | No |
| <i>The majority of doors have recently been upgraded to current standards, therefore, most self-closers are likely to be in place and working, however, this block contains a number of leaseholder doors which may not have a working self-closer.</i> | | |
| 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? | Yes |
| <i>Risers on stairways have intumescent strips and cold smoke seals.</i> | | |
| 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? | N/A |
| Question | 5.11 Are the internal fire doors indicated with the appropriate signage | Yes |
| Question | 5.12 Do the doors used for means of escape from the premises open in direction of travel where necessary? | Yes |
| 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? | Medium Risk |
| <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> | | |
| ACTION | The operating buttons should be moved closer to the door to allow easy exiting when using the emergency exit button. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | {REDACTED} | Action & Completion By 06/05/2021 |
| Question | 5.14 Are the floor surfaces on the escape route (internal and external) free from trip/slip hazards? | Low Risk |
| Question | 5.15 Are Fire Service facilities and access to the premises suitable and sufficient? | Yes |
| Question | 5.16 Are floor level indicators present and legible? | Yes |
| Question | 5.17 Do Fire Services facilities such as dry/wet risers, door entry/lift overrides appear to be free from damage and vandalism? | Low Risk |

See 4.2.

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| Question | 5.18 Are Fire Service facilities and controls for the premises subjected to a suitable system of maintenance and/or repair? | Yes |
| <p><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></p> <p><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 Service.</i></p> <p><i>The lift overrides are tested on a monthly basis as part of the PPM maintenance visit carried out by the Lift Contractor.</i></p> | | |

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| Section | 6. Detection and Warning | |
| Question | 6.1 Do the dwellings (from random sample) appear to have suitable hard wired smoke/heat detection installed? | Low Risk |
| <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 & 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> | | |
| ACTION | Determine if the existing provision of detection installed is suitable for the current layout and upgrade if required. | |
| Findings (ISSUE) | This block appears to contain maisonettes. Inspect internally to determine if original fire safety measures are still in place/available and adequate means of escape/warning are provided for the layout of the dwelling. | Action & Completion By 06/11/2027 |
| Question | 6.2 Are methods of detection and warning within the premises considered suitable and sufficient? | Yes |

| Section | 7. Emergency Plans | |
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| 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? | Yes |
| 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? | N/A |
| Question | 7.3 Have emergency plans been communicated to residents and other relevant people | Yes |
| <p><i>Fire action notice displayed in entrance lobby to block.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> | | |

| Section | 8. Further Surveys and Investigation | |
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| 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? | Low Risk |
| <p><i>Roof not accessed.</i></p> | | |
| 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 |

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| 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 |
| <i>The previous cladding system has recently been replaced to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations.</i> | | |

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| 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 | Slight Harm |
| Question | 9.3 Overall evaluation of fire risk | Tolerable |
| Question | 9.4 The most appropriate fire strategy for this building is | Stay-put |
| <i>Stay put unless directly affected by fire, heat, smoke or asked to leave by the Fire Service.</i> | | |
| Question | 9.5 Height of Building | N/A |
| Question | 9.6 Next FRA Due | N/A |

Audit Details

| Section | 4. Evaluating the Fire Hazards |
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| Action Ref | 0036968 |
| Question | 4.8 Is fire separation on the means of escape routes adequately maintained? |
| Action Required | Extend vent to external wall. |
| Action Notes | The vent from the ground floor communications room currently vents into the ground floor entrance lobby/lift lobby area. The trunking for this vent should be extended across the corridor to the external wall to prevent smoke from a fire in the communications room affecting the west stairway. |
| Due Date | 06/11/2021 |
| Responsible | Estate Maintenance Team |
| Status | OPEN |
| | |
| Action Ref | 0036967 |
| 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 | 06/05/2021 |
| Responsible | Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management |
| Status | COMPLETE |
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| Action Ref | 0036963 |
| Question | 4.1 Do the premises have an effective smoking policy? |
| Action Required | Remind residents of the smoking policy, monitor adherence & take enforcement action as necessary. |

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| Action Notes | {REDACTED} |
| Due Date | 06/05/2021 |
| Responsible | Area Housing Office - Tenancy Management |
| Status | COMPLETE |
| | |
| Action Ref | 0036966 |
| Question | 4.2 Does electrical equipment or wiring appear to be free from damage or misuse? |
| Action Required | Repair or replace door entry override system as appropriate to allow fire brigade access. |
| Action Notes | {REDACTED} |
| Due Date | 06/05/2021 |
| Responsible | Estate Maintenance Team |
| Status | COMPLETE |
| | |
| Action Ref | 0036964 |
| 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 | {REDACTED} |
| Due Date | 06/11/2021 |
| Responsible | Estate Maintenance Team |
| Status | OPEN |
| | |
| Action Ref | 0036969 |
| Question | 4.8 Is fire separation on the means of escape routes adequately maintained? |

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| Action Required | Ensure hatch cover is in place correctly. |
| Action Notes | Ensure hatch cover in ground floor west lift lobby area is fully covering hole.. |
| Due Date | 06/11/2021 |
| Responsible | Area Housing Office - Estate Services |
| Status | OPEN |
| | |
| Section | 5. Means of Escape |
| Action Ref | 0036965 |
| 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? |
| Action Required | The operating buttons should be moved closer to the door to allow easy exiting when using the emergency exit button. |
| Action Notes | {REDACTED} |
| Due Date | 06/05/2021 |
| Responsible | Area Housing Office - Estate Services |
| Status | OPEN |
| | |
| Section | 6. Detection and Warning |
| Action Ref | 0036962 |
| Question | 6.1 Do the dwellings (from random sample) appear to have suitable hard wired smoke/heat detection installed? |
| Action Required | Determine if the existing provision of detection installed is suitable for the current layout and upgrade if required. |
| Action Notes | This block appears to contain maisonettes. Inspect internally to determine if original fire safety measures are still in place/available and adequate means of escape/warning are provided for the layout of the dwelling. |
| Due Date | 06/11/2027 |

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| Responsible | CIP / Fire Safety Works Team |
| Status | OPEN |
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Previous O/S Actions (as of report generation date)

None