

From: cllr.marshall@rbkc.com

Subject: Re: Scrutiny Committee and Grenfell Tower power surges.

Date: Sun, 22 Sep 2013 12:09:03 +0100

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Daffarn

The Committee has now discussed the issues you raise at two meetings. Members were satisfied by the responses received from the TMO following questioning. While I would have no objection in principle to meeting you, I am not sure what purpose such a meeting would serve given you have already met with the Cabinet Member, Officers and the TMO. The Scrutiny Committee exists to question the executive functions of the Council, not to direct policy or the actions of Officers. It is therefore highly unlikely any actions would result from a meeting that would not already have been suggested and agreed at your previous meetings.

Best regards

Cllr Quentin Marshall

On 20 Sep 2013, at 12:05, Edward Daffarn <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Cllr Marshall,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Grenfell Action Group and the Grenfell Tower Leaseholders Association to request an urgent meeting with you in your capacity as Chair of the RBKC Housing and Property Scrutiny Committee.

We are obviously concerned about the power surge issue and the fact that, in the 16th July Scrutiny Committee report into the matter, it was stated that there was still confusion as to what precisely caused this issue.

If you recall, the surges caused significant damage to electrical equipment belonging to many of the residents of Grenfell Tower and caused much upset, alarm, and distress. Thankfully the damage was limited to property, but there are real worries amongst the residents that something more serious could have occurred or indeed could occur in the future.

In the run up to the July meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, the Grenfell Action Group wrote to you in your capacity as Chair (email dated 9th July 2013) and highlighted our concerns that the TMO were going to minimise the fire safety risk experienced by residents on 29th May. It looks like events have proved us right.

We subsequently invited you to attend a meeting with residents of Grenfell Tower where the power surge was discussed but you chose not to attend. We again emailed you on the 19th August and reiterated our concerns that the Scrutiny Committee needed to have been vigilant of the TMO "cover up" and warned you that our community will not let this matter lie.

The Grenfell Action Group then blogged our frustrations on 27th August:

<http://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/2013/08/27/marshall-gets-stuck-in/>

We have now had an opportunity to study the Scrutiny Committee minutes and the report that was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee from the TMO; we were extremely surprised with their content as it would appear that the seriousness of the matter is being downplayed, to say the least. It would seem very remiss for the Scrutiny Committee to simply accept the word of the TMO and ignore the explicit concerns regarding our health and safety we previously highlighted to your Members by email on the 9th July.

The only reference we can find to any fire risk or smoke being present at Grenfell Tower has appeared in our local Councillor Judith Blakeman's own minutes and seemed to suggest that the TMO wished to explain away residents' concerns of burning electrical appliances by telling the Scrutiny Committee that the smoke reported by residents had been caused by water falling on a hot surface and causing steam to rise! This is deeply insulting and shows a shockingly blasé attitude from the TMO.

We are also aware that Mr Black made allegations that the Grenfell Action Group and other local stakeholders had made misleading statements on our blog and in round robin emails. When we challenged Mr Black to substantiate these allegations (by informing us what statements he believed we gave that contained misleading information) he could not explain himself. Despite several opportunities Mr Black has failed to provide any evidence for the statements that he made to the Scrutiny Committee; we would therefore like this matter to be raised by you with Mr Black to ensure that the information he has provided the Scrutiny Committee is as full and frank as possible and does not contain such sweeping accusations which cannot be substantiated in future.

By now, you will no doubt be aware that the council's insurer and claims handler, Zurich Municipal, have denied liability for this matter on behalf of the council and the TMO; an offer of £200 per household has been made but this will not cover the costs many households will have to replace their damaged property and fixtures. Many residents now face great hardship in these difficult financial times to replace the electrical appliances the TMO simply failed to protect.

We would therefore request that a meeting be convened between yourself and the affected residents of Grenfell Tower at the earliest mutual convenience; this would allow everyone to put their concerns forward and seek assurances from you that the matter will be brought to a conclusion satisfactory to all parties.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Daffarn
For, and on behalf of,
Grenfell Action Group

From: cllr.marshall@rbkc.com
Subject: Re: Scrutiny Committee and Grenfell Tower power surges.
Date: Fri, 30 Aug 2013 21:53:45 +0100
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Daffarn

The Committee discussed Grenfell Tower at its public meeting of 16th July. Cllr Judith Blakeman, Ward Councillor for Notting Barns, was invited to join the Committee in discussing the issues residents have faced and questioning the TMO and Officers. You can find the papers relevant to the discussion at:

<http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/committees/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/6274/Committee/1540/Default.aspx>

Best regards

Cllr Quentin Marshall

On 30 Aug 2013, at 08:33, Edward Daffarn <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Councillor Marshall,
Please can you have the common courtesy to reply to my emails dated 13th and 19th August and inform our community what further steps we can take with regards the Scrutiny Committee investigating the truth of what actually happened during the power surges at Grenfell Tower.

Regards,
Edward Daffarn
Grenfell Action Group
<http://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/>

From: [REDACTED]
To: cllr.marshall@rbkc.gov.uk
CC: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] grenfellleaseholdersassociation@hotmail.co.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Scrutiny Committee and Grenfell Tower power surges.
Date: Mon, 19 Aug 2013 12:07:27 +0100

Dear Councillor Marshall,

It was disappointing that you were unable to attend the meeting arranged by the TMO that occurred on Lancaster West Estate on Thursday 15th May to discuss the power surge issue and the Council's refusal to compensate victims.

If you had attended this meeting you would have heard, at first hand, how residents woke terrified to find their flats full of smoke as a result of electrical appliances catching on fire.

One resident stated that if he had been sleeping when his electrical equipment caught fire that the consequences may well have been fatal. These examples are all the more frightening as the power surges had been already going on for 18 days with multiple reports of other residents electrical appliances blowing up within this time frame.

We believe that these incidents of residents electrical appliances catching fire have been totally unsatisfactorily explained by the TMO as being caused by water hitting a hot surface and causing steam to rise!

Why was no robust action taken when the power surge was first reported and why did residents have to wait for 18 days and until a near catastrophic incident occurred for the problem to be rectified? Why wasn't the Health and Safety Executive informed in early May when residents first reported electrical equipment catching fire in their homes? Why are innocent victims of the power surge now being treated like vermin and denied compensation?

Please can you advise our community about how best to proceed to shine a light on the injustices that have been highlighted above and what future role will the Scrutiny Committee play in investigating what actually happened in Grenfell Tower between the 11th and 29th May?

Regards,
Edward Daffarn
Grenfell Action Group
<http://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/>

From: [REDACTED]
To: cllr.marshall@rbkc.gov.uk
CC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] grenfellleaseholdersassociation@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Re: Invite to hear the truth about GT power surges!
Date: Tue, 13 Aug 2013 23:08:54 +0100

Dear Councillor Marshall,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and following the TMO/Council's contemptible decision to refuse to admit liability for the electrical appliances belonging to residents of Grenfell Tower that were destroyed during the power surges that lasted for most of May 2013.

<http://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/>

I would like to request that you attend a hastily arranged meeting to be held on Lancaster West Estate on Thursday 15th August at 6.30pm where residents will be able to put their side of events to representatives of the TMO.

If you attend this meeting you will hear at first hand the true story of what has happened to our community and gain a proper understanding of the pain and distress that residents have been subjected to as a result of the catastrophic power surges and the TMO's indifference to our suffering will be exposed.

You will also hear about how residents health and safety was placed in jeopardy as the TMO ignored our pleas to address the power surge issue and left us exposed to this danger for a full 17 days. In our opinion it is only a matter of luck that another Lakanal House fire disaster did not occur as residents electrical appliances blew up and caught fire, The idea that smoke was created by water landing on a hot surface is a complete red herring and will be exposed as such on Thursday evening along with other untruths.

Please assist our community to obtain justice from a landlord that has no right to treat us in this brutal manner.

Regards,

Edward Daffarn

Grenfell Action Group