

Lakanal House Board Meeting
22nd June 2010

1. Board Membership

Commissioner - Ron Dobson, Deputy Commissioner - Rita Dexter, Interim Head of Legal Services – Linda Armstrong, Head of Health and Safety - Brenda Weir, Director of Operational Policy and Training - Gary Dobson, AC Service Delivery- Dave Brown, AC – Jim Knighton, AC – Steve Turek

2. Attendees

Rita Dexter (RD) – Deputy Commissioner/Chair
Tim Cutbill (TC) – DAC Strategy and Performance
John Bradbury (JB) – DAC Fire Safety
Brenda Weir (BW) – Head of Health and Safety
Linda Armstrong (LA) – Interim Head of Legal Services
Mike Curran (MC) – GM Investigation Team.
Peter Mansi (PM) – GM Fire Investigation
Steve Turek (ST) – Assistant Commissioner Fire Safety
Scott Hayward (SH) – Principal Operations Manager
Jim Knighton (JK) – Assistant Commissioner Operational Policy
Tom Davies (TD) – Legal Services/Investigation team
Leah Clements (LC) – Investigation team/notes
David Brown (DB) – Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery

3. Apologies

Ron Dobson – Commissioner, Glenn Sebright – Communications

4. Minutes 5.5.10

- 4.1 Point 5.2 – correction - the fire in 1997 did spread to the upper floor of the flat, but it did not spread beyond the compartment.
- 4.2 Point 5.7 – correction - BRE did not include the same fire loading in the space above the laminated chipboard ceiling.
- 4.3 Point 5.9 – although different parameters can be added, this would be an additional workstream and would incur a cost.
- 4.4 Point 6.9 – external panels – we know the panels were combustible as tests have been carried out on them. JB – compartmentation was supposed to give 60 mins protection.
- 4.5 Point 6.12 – re-running the test to include the impact of the wall removal in flat 79 – this would come to approx £5,000 if we were to remodel with the wall and door in place.

5. Fire Investigation (Peter Mansi)

- 5.1 PM – BRE are moving ahead well with the computer fire modelling and are expecting to have a draft report complete by the end of June. Difficulties were encountered with getting in touch with Jade Spence; the first caller. We have clarified the furniture in the kitchen from photographs. There was a fridge/freezer against the panels in the kitchen and a lot of fire loading in that corner. That, coupled with the burning of the inside of the panel on the balcony, would have intensified the fire in that corner, and extended the flame. The right hand side of the panel in flat 79 would have been affected by this. This is reflecting what we have seen in the video, photos and full scale fire test.

- 5.2 BRE will then produce a final draft report by the end of June. It will take approximately 2-3 weeks after this to produce a final copy. TC – they are going to do some work for CLG – modelling the staircase and reasons for it becoming smoke logged. LFB have access to this report when it is complete. CLG are using this modelling to ensure the National Risk Assessment for high rise fires is suitable.

6. Fire Safety (John Bradbury)

- 6.1 JB – This is still a Police led investigation. Good progress is now being made

7. Incident Operational Review (Mike Curran)

- 7.1 The draft sequence of events continues to be prepared. An introduction will explain the purpose of the document, how it has been produced and what information is included. All the 999 calls have now been included
- 7.2 Quotes from statements have also been included. The aim is to avoid including any subjectivity or analysis. The quotes help to give a better understanding of what is happening at that time. It could be argued that the document is subjective due to précis of statements being used. However, this is necessary in order to produce a readable summary of events.
- 7.3 The sequence of events runs until 21:00 hrs in the incident, post 21:00 will be based on silver meetings, pro forma statements, etc.
- 7.4 SH – Control will be producing a similar document with more detail of the content of the actual calls. MC highlighted that someone reading this document will see these 999 calls coming in to Control, whilst those at the Incident wouldn't have been aware of them unless informed by Control. The Control record will include information coming into Control, then from Control to the ground. By reading this document and seeing the information in the 999 calls, the reader sees information that is not going to the fire ground and this needs to be made clear if they are to be included.
- 7.5 GD suggested that this Sequence of Events document should contain information that goes to the incident ground from Control, but that the 999 calls would be better placed in the Control Sequence of Events document. RD acknowledged that the 999 calls may not be best placed in this document and would consider the options.
- 7.6 TC – Police and HSE have both expressed an interest in the Sequential Time Event Plot (STEP document). However, there is far more detail in the Sequence of Events and it is more up to date. Once it is complete, the intent is to provide both the Police and HSE with a copy of this document. The STEP document became too unwieldy and so was never completed.
TC suggested that 2/3 people not involved in Lakanal should review the document. GD suggested Steve Hams and Brenda Weir. This was agreed.
- 7.7 TC highlighted that the team could start looking at analysing the evidence to identify lessons to be learned. RD agreed, and stated that the SAI process should be used.
- 7.8 RD requested for a further meeting to be arranged, based on the work the incident operations review team have done since the 5th.

Action: TC to organise meeting to discuss analysis of the sequence of events.

8. Control (Scott Hayward)

- 8.1 A member from the Technical Support Group (TSG) has been allocated to collating the documentation required.
- 8.2 3 staff interviews have been completed by the Police. A further 7 dates have been arranged for individuals from Green Watch leaving 4 dates to be arranged. Police have

- required both a tape recording and transcripts of all calls (emergency and operationally urgent) and radio traffic where appropriate.
- 8.3 Individuals have also been supplied with a tape and transcript of their own calls received and made by them prior to interviews to remind them with the content.
 - 8.4 Providing transcripts of all taped communications and verification of Police transcripts have been the main focus for TSG in order to enable Control to create an accurate timeline of events from a Control perspective on the Lakanal incident. This will also assist the Lakanal Team in cross referencing communications from Control to the incident ground and the actions taken.
 - 8.5 Policy 539 is being reviewed to include recent changes to call handling such as persons shut in lift policy and AFA policy. Changes have also been made to appendix A: Fire Survival Guidance to better reflect FSC 10/93.
 - 8.6 Enhanced Fire Survival Guidance refresher training is due to be complete on 14th July.
 - 8.7 Annual refresher training, in line with FSC 10/93, is being planned and the expectation is that all Control staff will receive a bi-annual 1 day refresher with the training team and an on watch package including an e-learning package from Fire Safety and confirmation of learning.
 - 8.8 Control staff training records will be aligned to STEP and individual training records updated and checked annually to ensure completion. The training audit authorised by the Board has been carried out by SM Steven Kelly from the station training support and performance team. A report is expected by the end of June.
 - 8.9 The training team are investigating introducing a supervisory course to include leadership, operational workings and communications for all new team leaders.
 - 8.10 The information on the CLG website regarding whether it is safer to stay in your flat if there is a fire elsewhere in the building has been changed. LFB were not informed of this.

9. AOB

- 9.1 JK stated GD received an email from Gordon Fielding. The Union would like to now come and see the work that has been done. A meeting will be organised with TC to discuss what can be shared with them. RD agreed.
Action: TC/JK to facilitate
- 9.2 TC – Last Lakanal Board meeting is programmed for July. RD recommended that these should continue until the end of the year.