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**From:** DALY, DAN  
**Sent:** 27 July 2009 13:05  
**To:** DOWSETT, ANTHONY  
**Cc:** HOWGATE, GRAHAM  
**Subject:** FW: Longford Court

Tony,

Unfortunately the feedback from Longford Court has been rather poor. The red watch carried out the initial hotstrike at about 1700hrs on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and of the residents they spoke to none reported being affected by the fire stating that they were out on the evening. I asked the W/W to follow up again on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> at a later time, I believe they attended about 1930hrs, Mick's response is below.

I have followed up on the comments from the resident who claimed to have been advised to leave their flat. During the incident, the 14 people assisted from the building were all found in the corridor or stairwell and were taken out rather than back to their flat as the corridor was heavily smoke logged and going out was the safest option and did not expose the residents to further smoke inhalation. At no time were residents asked to leave their flat.

As the fire situation was dealt with, crews were sent to check on residents still within their flats but again none were asked to leave.

I am satisfied that the comment is a difference in interpretation ie. The resident was advised to leave the building having been found in the corridor rather than asked to leave their individual flat/residence.

The station had carried out 13 HFSVs at Longford court prior to the incident, but only one on the floor affected by the fire. Hopefully this will increase if residents take up the invitation to have a visit following the fire.

Without more feedback from residents it is difficult to say how much the self evacuation was as a result of the Camberwell fire or lack of fire safety awareness.

Going back to the Red Watch incident on the 9/7 at Moulins Road where the whole block of 6 flats evacuated prior to our arrival, the comments and questions from residents were all related to the Camberwell incident and subsequent press reports. The OIC felt that public confidence in the service had been affected, so much so that residents were reluctant to re-occupy the unaffected flats in the property once they had been given permission from the OIC after the incident had been dealt with.

Notwithstanding the above, going forward it may be prudent for crews to review on arrival tactics at high rise incidents to include planning for the eventuality that people may self evacuate, influencing operational priorities and hampering firefighting access. To not do so would be to plan on an assumption that people will respond to a fire in a given way regardless of their level of awareness of fire safety advice.

Regards,

Dan

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**From:** CURNICK, MICHAEL  
**Sent:** 24 July 2009 21:07  
**To:** DALY, DAN  
**Subject:** Longford Court

Dan,

As requested, we made a visit to Longford Court this evening. Of the 11 flats on the fire floor we were only able to make contact with four residents.

Unfortunately, of the four residents, three were not in on the evening of the fire. The fourth resident said that they were advised to leave their flat by the Brigade. However, we were unable to establish at what time during the incident this was.

The whole block was then leafleted with HFSV appointment forms to back-up those leaflets already delivered via a hotstrike.

Kind Regards

Mick