

**Outgoing  
Email**

from

Matt Smith

on

17/03/2014 10:19

Create Mail Reply

File Ref 1 Client

File Ref 2 None

File Ref 3 None

To: Bruce Sounes <bruce@studioe.co.uk>

cc: "carlstokes@firesafety-consultant.co.uk"  
<carlstokes@firesafety-consultant.co.uk>; Claire Williams  
<clwilliams@kctmo.org.uk>; Janice Wray <jwray@kctmo.org.uk>; "Terry Ashton"  
<Terry.Ashton@Exova.com>

Subject: RE: Grenfell and finger blocks - visit with fire brigade

Associated Documents

created by: **Matt Smith** on 17-Mar-14

Morning all

As a brief reminder, if CFD analysis is required for the smoke extract system then this would need to be undertaken by Exova. As Terry has mentioned previously, this cost hasn't been allowed for so it would be worth getting a definitive answer from RBKC as to whether they would be happy with just the hand calcs.

Kind regards,

Matt

**MAX FORDHAM**

42-43 Gloucester Crescent

London

NW1 7PE

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

[maxfordham.com](http://maxfordham.com)

Max Fordham LLP is a Limited Liability Partnership. Registered in England and Wales Number OC300026  
Registered office 42-43 Gloucester Crescent, London, NW1 7PE

From: Bruce Sounes <bruce@studioe.co.uk>

To: Claire Williams <clwilliams@kctmo.org.uk>, Janice Wray <jwray@kctmo.org.uk>,

**MAX00004345/1**  
MAX00004345/1

Cc: "carlstokes@firesafety-consultant.co.uk" <carlstokes@firesafety-consultant.co.uk>, "Matt Smith (M.Smith@maxfordham.com)" <M.Smith@maxfordham.com>  
Date: 13/03/2014 13:46  
Subject: RE: Grenfell and finger blocks - visit with fire brigade

---

Claire,

I wasn't distracted on my phone yesterday. I was taking notes which I've embroidered below. I came away with a slightly different emphasis, I think.

Fire Brigade visit Grenfell Tower 13 March

Ben Lewis  
Mathew Ramsey  
Dan Hussey

Matthew felt CFD analysis would be required to demonstrate upgrade to vent, but approval would be by others.

Overlap with Finger Blocks

The alarms to Lancaster West in reception are not monitored 24/7. No requirement to evacuate in event of fire so probably not essential. Sounders in lobby but not sure how they are activated.  
AOV's in finger blocks essential to handling smoke in event of fire. Display/controls in Grenfell Tower reception possibly not essential - information only and not monitored - could be moved/reprovided.

Visit to lobby, Floor 5

- Non std key to dry riser. Firement will connect to riser in floor 1 or 2 below fire and lead hose up stair.
- Smoke detector on lobby - should activate dampers. Fan and Makeup air.
- All new doors 30min good
- short distance to place of safety
- Doors open in fire fighting situation - smoke vent to lobby and stair req'd. (is loss of makeup air to stair an issue? - not yet raised by Building Control or Exova)
- Bike found chained to dry riser
- Vents open & closed - existing situation not working.
- Matthew Ramsey very unhappy with fact dampers do not appear to be functional. Risk of 4 week enforcement notice. A demonstration would be req'd. This is urgent.
- Suggest RBKC Archives? worth trying for details of existing smoke vent system.

Dan Hussey mostly concerned about access for fire tenders - area is congested and a 6+ tenders will be difficult to accommodate. would like to see clear instructions for arriving firemen. How to find flat numbers, hydrants etc.

Firemen's drop keys at entrances essential - including undercroft.

Found one hydrant in pavement at bottom of Grenfell Road.

Finger Blocks

- Needs a whole site review.
- Concern about access to finger blocks how to identify unit on fire, how to access it from below when you can't see it. Inadequately signed.
- Risk of delay getting fire fighters to fire given difficulty of access. Compounded by no fire separation to windows overlooking streets in Finger blocks.
- Access via undercroft - concern about enclosure, smoke build up in garages - there will be no record of previous approvals

Wet main system to finger blocks

- Unaware of strategy. Appears to be a horizontal wet main (4.4 bar recorded) running the full length of the undercroft with connections dropping to eye level, directly above dry riser connections.
- Assume strategy is to connect wet and dry risers with short length of pipe, walk up stairs with hose, connect at residential level (which is external) and enter street to fight fire
- Implies no need to get vehicles down undercroft. Hoses could be carried.
- Implies stairs are essential to strategy and yet two have been blocked off to north end of the centre finger block (Testerton). Also that loss of stepped ramp as part of regeneration of Grenfell Tower is not significant for fire fighting.
- Existing Wet riser unlocked / or not standard lock used. risk of vandalism.
- Inadequate Signage for Fire brigade. Parking on double yellow lines seems to be tolerated.

#### Garages

- Concern not enough smoke vent to garages .
- appears original cross vent strategy has been compromised by steel security panels above doors.
- Concern about challenge of fighting a fire in undercroft: Signage or beacons to identify hydrants.
- Garage numbers at low level. Reflective/luminescent letters
- Escapes not secure - risk of mischief. escapes not clearly signed
- Needs risk assessment (Carl Stokes). Doubt firemen would know what to do.

Dan explored lift motor room. Felt some information as to how to manually drop the lift would be useful. Manual wheels are protected by steel guards and it is not obvious how they are removed.

Propose Premises Information Packs are held at reception in event of emergency to pass on to Fire Brigade. LFB have their own Database system to which Lancaster West should be added.

All approvals to go via Building Control

During Construction the HSE will overview the contractor's activities, not the LFB.

#### Regards

**Bruce Sounes**

For and on behalf of

**STUDIO E LLP**

Palace Wharf, Rainville Road, London W6 9HN

T [REDACTED] | F [REDACTED] | [www.studioe.co.uk](http://www.studioe.co.uk)

**From:** Claire Williams [<mailto:clwilliams@kctmo.org.uk>]  
**Sent:** 12 March 2014 15:43  
**To:** Janice Wray  
**Cc:** carlstokes@firesafety-consultant.co.uk; Bruce Sounes  
**Subject:** Grenfell and finger blocks - visit with fire brigade

Hi Janice

I had a great time on site this am with our architect and Daniel Hallissey and Matthew Ramsey and a.n.other from the fire brigade. We talked through our Grenfell scheme, specifically 4 issues:

- 1 We need to submit our airflow calculations to building regulations to evidence our smoke strategy to the internal lobbies is viable
- 2 Matthew was very unhappy about the existing state of the smoke vents to each lobby – of those

looked at about 30% were not in the right position. I have been chasing RGE for 2 months now on their servicing records and had nothing back. Janice, do you want to chase Simon Coleman or Dil on this as I am obviously getting nowhere. Matthew said about issuing us with notice to confirm fully functional in 6 weeks, but maybe I can deal with Daniel on this, assuming that we do have some servicing records?

3 The ramp can go, but they were unhappy with the arrangements to accessing the finger blocks which need to be updated to make sure that the existing fire arrangements work. The assumption is that the tenders are parked outside Grenfell on the service road, and then that the fire fighters go through the basement garages to the hydrants, and then do a 'loop' so that they can get water at the floors the water is needed at. Please see the bullet points below.

4 Carl, can you please confirm that the lifts are either fireman's or fire fighting – I did not realise there was a difference!

Carl/Janice, you may want to do a review of the finger blocks in relation the FRA – the issues raised today were:

- insecure entrances, a couple of those looked at today were open and therefore giving access for illegal/fire setting people in the basement garages
- non-standard locks on hydrants (the same applied to the dry risers in Grenfell)
- signage from basement not pointing out that the basement gives access to the upper floors of the finger blocks, and which numbers – and generally
- the atrium rooflight control panel is in Grenfell concierge room – I do not know if anyone checks it. Currently it is showing that the rooflight at Hurstway nearest the podium access has an issue. Who deals with this? I would want to get rid of this panel, as it is no use to Grenfell and I suspect it is not serviced/managed.
- LESS WORRIED ABOUT cross ventilation to garages not happening now. It seems as if for security, that the fanlights have been blocked up allowing some, but not as designed, ventilation levels.
- LESS WORRIED ABOUT garage doors have numbers at top of doors, which would not be legible with smoke rising
- LESS WORRIED ABOUT our contractor OCS storing flammable materials in their store under Hurstway

Shout if you want to sit down and talk to this.

Janice – please let me know if you have any joy with RGE re testing the smoke vents in the lobbies.

Thanks

Claire Williams  
Project Manager



t: [REDACTED]  
m: [REDACTED]

a: The Network Hub, 292a Kensal Road, London, W10 5BE

 Before printing, please think about the environment

---

This e-mail message has been scanned for Viruses and Content and cleared by **MailMarshal**

---

**DISCLAIMER:**

This E-mail and any files transmitted with are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the System Administrator. This message may contain confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email.

Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Kensington & Chelsea TMO Ltd. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. Kensington & Chelsea TMO Ltd accepts no liability for any damage caused by any Virus transmitted by this email.