

20 March 2017

Advice Please

Dear Mrs Parker

Several residents of Grenfell Tower have expressed worries about the new gas pipes installed in the staircases at Grenfell Tower following works undertaken and just completed by National Grid to a part of the building. They fear that the way these pipes have been installed, without being boxed in or provided with other protection and with the valves exposed in the stairwell, is very dangerous. They assert that because of the amount of anti-social behaviour in these stairwells, sooner or later someone will try and undo the valves. Furthermore, they believe that in the event of a fire in the Tower, if ignited, the pipes will cause an explosion and prevent people exiting the building.

Neither the ward councillors nor the residents are competent to determine whether in fact this is dangerous or not and we have written to the TMO for confirmation from a formal inspection by the Fire Brigade that residents' worries can be addressed.

We have been told by residents that if the siting of these pipes and valves causes anyone to die, they will sue us for corporate manslaughter if we fail to persuade the TMO to commission the Fire Brigade to carry out a further fire check at Grenfell Tower and assure residents that the installation of the pipes is safe.

We are wondering what the position of elected councillors would be, should such an unfortunate event ever occur.

Kind regards

Cllr Judith Blakeman