
Subject:

FW: National Grid Works at Grenfell Tower

From: Johnson, Laura: HS-Housing: RBKC [<mailto:Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk>]

Sent: 22 May 2017 15:19

To: 'Judith Blakeman'

Cc: Wray, Janice: RBKCTMO Ltd; Morcom, Jon: HS-Housing: RBKC

Subject: RE: National Grid Works at Grenfell Tower

Cllr Blakeman,

Following your e-mail and those of Victoria Borwick, I have made enquiries of the TMO on this issue and they advise me that:

- TMO Officers met with National Grid (NG) on 27th March to discuss their current work at Grenfell Tower and in particular the incident at flat 12 where the asbestos panel was damaged by one of their operatives. At this meeting NG advised that they were considering extending the current works at Grenfell to include connecting all remaining flats to the new riser (believe there were only 20 flats included in the initial work so this would mean a significant extension of work and timeframe). TMO expressed their concern that this had not been raised with them (or the residents) and we were emphatic that in view of the protracted disruption residents had faced during the major works and now this work we would have very serious concerns about extending this project. TMO's initial view was that it would be preferable to finish this project, leave site and then consult with staff and residents with details of any further work and then agree a timescale. They stressed the need to improve communication with residents and TMO in advance of any work – and whilst the project was ongoing – and NG confirmed that they would take this on board.
- The TMO requested a further meeting with NG to discuss their future proposals in detail, agree what consultation would be undertaken with the residents in advance of this work and agree a timeframe from them.
- In the meantime NG sent out a letter to residents of Grenfell Tower requesting access for surveys, this is likely to be the preparatory work in advance of their next phase of work - to identify the detail of how individual flats can be connected to the new gas riser.
- National Grid have been and continue to be a law unto themselves and despite repeated requests from the TMO to act in a more consultative and collaborative manner with the landlord this has not taken place. The TMO are chasing National Grid for a date to meet to discuss works, timetable and consultation to Grenfell Tower, so far hasn't been forthcoming. Unfortunately there is little further I can add at the present time, until the TMO receive further information from National Grid who it would appear, as a pan UK organisation don't feel the need to be overly sensitive to local housing management difficulties or residents concerns.

When I hear anything further I shall let you know.

Regards
Laura Johnson

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From: Judith Blakeman [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2017 09:29
To: Johnson, Laura: HS-Housing: RBKC <Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk>; Cllr, Feilding-Mellen, Rock: RBKC <Cllr.Feilding-Mellen@rbkc.gov.uk>
Cc: rblack@kctmo.org.uk; Wray, Janice: RBKCTMO Ltd <jwray@kctmo.org.uk>; 'Sacha Jevans' <sjevens@kctmo.org.uk>
Subject: National Grid Works at Grenfell Tower
Importance: High

Dear Ms Johnson

Please find attached a letter sent to all residents of Grenfell Tower recently. It seems that the National Grid is seeking to enter every flat and to undertake works of which it appears the TMO has little or no knowledge. This has only come to light following complaints from individual residents, the Grenfell Leaseholders' Association and the disastrous works carried out at one flat where asbestos was disturbed and contaminated the whole flat, despite National Grid claiming that they knew where all the asbestos was located and had trained their operatives accordingly. This was clearly not the case.

Given the money spent on the Grenfell Tower refurbishment and all the disruption that residents experienced during that very long project, I find it frankly outrageous that National Grid can – apparently quite legally – demand entry to all the flats and propose all these works without even bothering first to liaise with the TMO or the Council as the freeholder, cause residents major worry and then carry out works that damage the integrity of the newly refurbished building.

Can you please advise what steps the Council proposes to take to deal with this issue; ensure that National Grid have the decency to treat our residents with respect; do not ever again put families' lives at risk through wanton damage to asbestos-bearing materials; and have in place a clear complaints and compensation process, not just for residents but also for the building's freeholder?

I can't think in all my 34 years on the Council of anything that has gone on for so long in such an irresponsible manner and caused such concern to residents.

Cllr Judith Blakeman

Garden waste collection service Residents that signed up to receive a garden waste collection for 2016/17 need to renew their subscription now. New customers can also sign up. <http://bit.ly/GardenWasteCollection>

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
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