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**From:** Rock Feilding-Mellen [cflr.feilding-mellen@rbkc.com]  
**Sent:** 02/05/2017 09:24:38  
**To:** Johnson, Laura: HS-Housing: RBKC [laura.johnson@rbkc.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up with LFB

Thank you. All sounds reassuring.

RFM.

On 2 May 2017, at 09:14, Johnson, Laura: HS-Housing: RBKC <[Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk)> wrote:

Cllr FM,

We shall report on this at HPSC, but thought you would like to know.

Regards

LJ

**From:** Robert Black [<mailto:rblack@kctmo.org.uk>]  
**Sent:** 02 May 2017 08:54  
**To:** Johnson, Laura: HS-Housing: RBKC <[Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk)>; Johnson, Amanda: HS-Housing: RBKC <[Amanda.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Follow up with LFB

Dear Laura and Amanda

As you know we had arranged to meet LFB Officers (from their operational team and Inspecting Team) at Trellick last week so that they had an opportunity to demonstrate the procedure they followed during last week's fire and we could both identify if any action was required to improve this in the future. We looked specifically at the following-

1. Wet rising main

In anticipation of the LFB's visit the Contract Management Team had arranged for the specialist maintenance contractors to attend site yesterday morning and undertake thorough inspection and testing of the system and all associated pumps, control panels etc. During this inspection the engineers confirmed that they had found that one of the pressure switches in the system to be faulty and had fitted a replacement. The system operates by the pressure switch detecting a drop in water pressure once water starts to be drawn off by the firefighters and transmitting a message to the electric pump causing it to operate taking pressure to the correct level and sustaining it there whilst water continues to be drawn off for firefighting.

When the LFB operational crews arrived they attached their hose into the wet riser outlet on the 27th floor and opened the valve (as they had done on the night of the fire) and found that the water arrived instantly at the required pressure. We could all hear that the pump kicked in almost immediately as required and the LFB were happy that this performed as it should. We advised them of having detected and replaced the faulty pressure switch and the Station Manager confirmed that if there were to be a further fire at Trellick he would have no concerns about dealing with this. Further, the Fire Safety Inspecting Officer confirmed that he was aware that the system had been inspected as per the requirements of the British Standard in January and had been fully compliant at that time. He likened this to an MOT in that the system was

compliant at the time of checking and but components could fail before the next test was due and it was not possible to be alerted to these and to deal with them – therefore he also happy confirmed that he was happy with this system.

## 2. Operation of the firefighting lifts

Whilst on site yesterday various operational LFB staff raised concerns about the performance of the lifts on the night of the fire. Whilst there had previously been some anecdotal comments about the lifts we had not previously been advised of specific concerns about performance during the fire. Therefore, we asked the LFB to demonstrate their efforts to take control of the lifts and at that point it became clear that the firefighters and the Station Manager had misunderstood how this is done. Once we pointed out their error they tested lifts and confirmed that they did pass to LFB control return to the lower ground as requested to facilitate firefighter activity. (Our procedure involves them using their fire drop key to open a hinged panel behind which there is an on / off button to enable LFB to switch lifts to their control. They assumed that , in keeping with most locations they visit, that they only needed to turn the key – and not open panel and flick switch. We agreed that if they need us to alter the wording on this panel they would advise us of their preferred wording.) Therefore, it seems that there was no issue with lift performance on the night in question.

We have agreed to investigate better signage within the wet riser pump room so that if LFB needed to attend this location they would be absolutely clear about what procedure to follow, however, there were no other actions arising from yesterday and all crews (from Chelsea, Paddington & North Kensington) and Officers (Station Manager and Fire Safety Inspecting Officers) who attended left happy that systems are operational and they are clear about procedure to follow.

Have a review and see what you think. In speaking to Janice with regard to the LFB she was given the strong impression that this will not be taken any further. She spoke to the LFB operational manager locally on Friday who confirms that he will be undertaking a detailed review with all operational crews who attended so he can identify any weaknesses in their procedures and then follow up with more detailed familiarisation at the block with each of his crews – but this is an internal review only.


Both Janice and Barbara will be attending Scrutiny so can pick up any issues. If you have any issues before then let me know

Best wishes

Robert

**Robert Black**  
Chief Executive

  
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Cllr Rock Feilding-Mellen  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Regeneration  
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