

Message

From: Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk [Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk]
Sent: 19/07/2013 11:04:11
To: [REDACTED] Cllr.DentCoad@rbkc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
CC: Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk; cllr.feilding-mellen@rbkc.com; pmaddison@kctmo.org.uk
Subject: RE: Grenfell Tower/Scrutiny Committee.

Dear Mr. Daffarn

In response to your request, here are the notes I took at the scrutiny committee meeting:

- The power surges happened in May and affected the floors from the 10th and above
- They were the result of arcing on a main cable into the building.
- The whole length of cable was replaced, not just a patch at the point of arcing
- A power surge filter has been installed to protect the building from surges elsewhere on the network
- RBKC and the TMO are "as confident as they can be" that the problem is now resolved
- The matter will however be subject to ongoing monitoring
- All affected residents have been contacted face-to-face
- There is now a complete log of all damaged equipment and property
- 40 properties have indicated some loss
- There was no smoke, it was in fact steam caused by water from a leak dropping on to something hot in the flat below
- There was a meeting for residents and 25 people attended, deemed to be a very good turnout for the Tower (for example, much larger than for the consultation meetings)
- A newsletter will be delivered door to door next week (I reiterated the need for it to be more accessible and comprehensible)
- There will be another meeting for residents, at which the contract procurement process will be communicated
- The TMO/EMB have undertaken to adopt a greater door-to-door focus on the regeneration project
- They will in future copy all documents that are sent to residents to the ward councillors
- I now have a copy of the insurance claim form, which does not say quite what was reported but does ask a rather awkwardly phrased question of the claimants as to why they blame RBKC and the TMO for their loss
- I was told that the revised design will provide an alternative means of protecting passers-by and the children's playground beside the Tower given that the planners have asked for the canopy to be removed.

I was not satisfied that RBKC and the TMO explained adequately about the delay in responding to residents' initial concerns, nor the delay in compensating them for their losses.

Subsequently I asked the EMB/TMO for a report on the fire safety exercise at Grenfell Tower that I had requested and was told that the senior officer from the North Kensington Fire Station was very pleased with the exercise, expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the staff and the residents and confirmed that he felt it had provided a good learning event for the crews. Five fire engines attended for the exercise and parking these vehicles did not present any particular problems. The exercise may be repeated in due course and will also be extended to the Silchester high-rise blocks. I have asked for a written statement to be circulated to all residents to re-assure them that the exercise was positive.

Kind regards.

Cllr. Judith Blakeman

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

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