

From: <LeVerne.Parker@rbkc.gov.uk>
To: <Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk>
Cc: <CllrR.Atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk>, <Cllr.Lasharie@rbkc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Advice Please
Sent: Mon, 3 Apr 2017 10:51:32 +0000

Dear Cllr Blakeman

I have now had a chance to look at the relevant legislation and I cannot see that any cause of action would arise against individual councillors should there be some terrible accident arising from the siting of the pipes and valves at Grenfell Tower.

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 provides for the criminal offence of corporate manslaughter, for organisations including local authorities, but this offence cannot be committed by individuals. The common law offence of gross negligence manslaughter can be committed by individuals but the elements needed to prove the offence simply do not apply in the current circumstances.

The residents may be alluding to bringing a civil case against ward councillors but again I do not see there is a cause of action. Even assuming that the pipes etc have been incorrectly installed individual councillors are not responsible either for their installation or for the management of the building in which they have been installed. In the very unlikely event that a claim were to be successful, councillors acting in the course of their duties would be covered by the Council's indemnity insurance.

Regards

LeVerne Parker
Chief Solicitor (Property and Planning)
Tri-Borough Shared Legal Services

Email: leverne.parker@rbkc.gov.uk

Address: Town Hall (3rd Floor)
Hornton Street
London W8 7NX

Tel: [REDACTED]

DX: 84015 Kensington High Street 2

From: Judith Blakeman [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 20 March 2017 13:08
To: Parker, LeVerne: CP-Legal: RBKC <LeVerne.Parker@rbkc.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr, Atkinson, Robert: RBKC <CllrR.Atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk>; Cllr, Lasharie, Beini: RBKC <Cllr.Lasharie@rbkc.gov.uk>
Subject: 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

Easter holiday activities

Check out the fun, free and low-cost Easter activities that all the family can enjoy during the school holidays

<http://bit.ly/Easteractivities>

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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