

Appendix B

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Dear resident

Fire safety update and cladding checks

Following the recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, we want to let you know the steps we are taking to keep you safe and also to remind you of the fire safety advice from the London Fire Brigade.

Existing investment in fire safety

The council already has works planned to all street properties with communal areas and many of our mansion blocks to upgrade fire protection and detection arrangements. Interconnected heat or smoke detectors will be installed over the next three years. We will prioritise works to those buildings that we consider to be at most risk. We will also prioritise improvements to flat doors to ensure they are fire safe.

Learning from Grenfell Tower

The fire brigade and the Government have instructed councils to test samples of cladding on some tower blocks because of concerns about safety. This cladding is not used on buildings like yours. However, there may be other learning and guidance on fire safety inside buildings to come out of the inquiry into Grenfell Tower. We promise you that we will take whatever action on fire safety is needed once the detail is known.

Reporting fire safety defects or hazards:

Islington Council and Partners for Islington carry out Fire Risk Assessments of communal areas in your building.

It is really important that you and your neighbours keep communal areas clear and report any problems. Please look out for, and report:

- Fire doors to your flat that don't close properly by themselves, or are damaged in another way
- Blocked fire escapes
- Flammable materials piled up in communal areas
- Please contact whoever manages your home – either your local area housing office or Partners - if you spot something that worries you.

Please turn over...

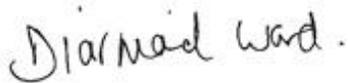
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Keeping you informed

If you have any concerns or queries about your home, please email us on firesafety@islington.gov.uk ; ask your Area Housing Office or the Partners team. You can also see updates on fire safety checks on our website at www.islington.gov.uk/firesafety. If you want to see the Fire Risk Assessment for your property please contact your Area Housing Office or Partners to request a copy.

I hope you have found this information useful. I understand that this will be an unsettling time for you and want to assure you that the council is doing all it can to ensure that your home is safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diarmaid Ward." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cllr Diarmaid Ward
Executive Member for Housing and Development
Islington Council

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

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London Fire Brigade fire safety advice for residents who live in street properties and mansion blocks

Most importantly, make sure you **know what the plan is for evacuating your building** so you and anyone with you can get out safely.

If there is smoke or fire inside your flat or maisonette and your escape route is clear: Get everyone out, close the door and walk calmly out of the building. If it is safe to do so, alert other residents in the immediate vicinity on your way out (knock on their doors). Call 999, give your address, the number of your flat, and say which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire in another part of the building: The emergency plan for your building is that all occupants should leave as soon as they become aware of a fire in the building. This information should be displayed in your building. Tell everyone in your home about the fire and get them to leave, shutting the flat door behind you. If it is safe to do so, alert other residents in the immediate vicinity on your way out - knock on doors. Call the fire service. You must leave immediately if smoke or heat affects your home, or if you are told to by the fire service. If you are in doubt, get out.

Other practical things you can do to make your home safer

- Make sure you have plenty of smoke alarms and test them regularly
- Ensure your mains-powered alarm is working properly if you have one. If it does not work, or beeps constantly, please contact Housing Direct on 0800 694 3344 to report it or if you are a Partners tenant call 0800 587 3595. **Do not disable it – it is there for your safety**
- Bikes, pushchairs and rubbish must not block communal exits or your escape routes
- Keep balconies free of clutter
- If you smoke, dispose of cigarette ends carefully
- Keep candles, incense and oil burners away from curtains, furniture, clothes and hair that can catch fire easily and always keep an eye on them - they are one of the most common causes of fire at home
- Look out for vulnerable neighbours who may have an increased risk of fire, are less able to react or reduced ability to escape from a fire. These could include being a smoker; having hoarding, drug or alcohol problems or mobility issues. There is specific advice for parents and carers and details of how to book a **free fire safety check** on the London Brigade website www.london-fire.gov.uk

Information for homeowners

You are responsible for ensuring your property is fire safe. This includes making sure gas and electricity appliances are tested regularly and that the door to your property meets regulations. If you have any queries our homeowner team can advise on 020 7527 7715 or email homeownership@islington.gov.uk

The London Fire Brigade's advice for landlords can be found at: www.london-fire.gov.uk/landlords-or-housing-providers-know-the-plan.asp

Source: London Fire Brigade website: June 2017

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