

Fire Risk Assessment

Cynthia House, 1-6

Version 3

3 October 2023



Review Date: 3 October 2024

Score: Moderate Risk

Assessor: Andy Harris

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Action Plan Summary

Task No.	Category	Sub Category	Action Required	Priority	Status	Action Taken	Date Completed
1	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	<p>There are numerous items located in recesses on the staircase which should be removed.</p> <p>Should residents storage be required, these should be properly enclosed in an FR30 enclosure, with FD30S doors fitted which should be kept locked shut.</p> <p>03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.</p>	Medium	Identified		
2	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	<p>The storage of combustible items in electrical cupboards should be prohibited.</p> <p>03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.</p>	High	Identified		
3	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	<p>Bikes should not be stored as to obstruct escape routes.</p> <p>03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.</p>	Medium	Identified		

4	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	<p>There are common balconies which were noted as having a limited amount of combustibile items in place on some of them. Whilst beyond the scope of the Fire Safety Order, as a private balcony is not part of the common area, residents should be advised about the risks arising from the presence of combustibile materials on balconies. They should make clear that smoking, the use of barbecues and storage of flammable property on balconies can increase that risk. Advice from fire and rescue authorities is also clear that barbecues should not be used on balconies.</p> <p>(MHCLG Advice Note on Balconies on Residential Buildings, 2019)</p> <p>03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.</p>	Advisory	Identified
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Introduction

This report presents the significant findings of a fire risk assessment carried-out at the premises by QFSM Ltd. The scope, format and limitations of the fire risk assessment have been discussed and agreed with the client.

The scope of the assessment does not include individual dwellings. Notwithstanding any statement or recommendation made with respect to smoke/heat alarms within dwellings, it is always recommended as best practice to ensure that working smoke alarms are provided in all dwellings at least to a BS 5839-6 Category LD3 standard. These should ideally be Grade D alarms (mains powered with integral battery back-up), although Grade F alarms (battery powered only) are a reasonable short term measure.

The report includes an action plan which contains recommended tasks, each with a suggested due date. These due dates are only our suggestions, and may or may not be appropriate, depending on individual circumstances such as financial constraints and requirements of enforcing authorities.

The premises risk score was assessed at the time of the fire risk assessment, and a recommended review date has been provided. The actual level of risk may change over time, as a result of tasks being completed, or new risks arising. Regardless of the review date, the fire risk assessment should be reviewed regularly so as to keep it up to date and particularly if:

- there is reason to suspect that the fire risk assessment is no longer valid; or
- there has been a significant change in the matters to which the fire risk assessment relates.

If you have any queries please contact QFSM Ltd at office@qfsm ltd.co.uk.

Executive Summary

The previous FRA for this building was reviewed prior to this inspection, paying particular attention to any tasks generated by that FRA. During this inspection these tasks were inspected where access was possible, to ascertain if the recommended remedial work had been completed, and comments regarding the progress of any remedial work made accordingly. It was noted that there remains a number of tasks outstanding from the previous FRA which detail recommended remedial work required to ensure the safety of the building and that it is compliant with relative fire safety regulations and guidance. It is imperative that such remedial work is carried out within the recommended time frames given.

Due to current government guidelines regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic, access into flats to confirm the provision and standard of fire resisting flat entrance doors, or the provision and standard of fire alarms within flats was not possible. Inspection of flat entrance doors was made by external examination only, taking into account the age and condition of the doors, and where possible referring to previous FRAs where more detailed information regarding flat entrance doors and fire alarm provision may be found.

Access was not made into the roof space as this was outside of the scope of this Type 1 Fire Risk Assessment.

Records for the testing and maintenance of fire safety related systems are not kept on site. These are managed centrally and are held at the ISHA Head Office.

The wall, floors and stairs in the common areas are of masonry/concrete construction and it is reasonable to assume these would afford a good standard of compartmentation.

As expected, there is no common fire detection and alarm system, which supports the Stay Put strategy appropriate for the building.

The standard of housekeeping throughout the building was found to be unsatisfactory, with an unacceptable amount of combustible items and obstructions located in the staircase, and particularly within the electrical cupboard.

There are some cable penetrations in the staircase which are not fire stopped.

There is an unacceptable level of combustible items in the electrical cupboard which should be removed.

Giving consideration to the general fire safety arrangements within the building, and the tasks recommended as detailed within this report, it is assessed that this building presents a moderate risk. This is in the main due to the high volume of combustible items in the electrical cupboard, and within the common staircase.

This new version was created on 03/10/2023 and is not a review of the fire risk assessment. This is purely an on-site audit carried out at the request of the client to ascertain the progress of any action carried out against previous tasks identified in previous versions of this fire risk assessment.

Premises Details

Address line 1

Cynthia House, Flats 1-6

Address line 2

Aberdeen Park

Town

Islington

Postcode

N5 2AX

FRA Type

Type 1 - Common parts only (non-destructive)

Description

A Type 1 fire risk assessment has been conducted at this building. This means the inspection of the building has been non-destructive. As well as considering the arrangements for means of escape, the fire risk assessment has included, where possible, the examination of a sample of flat entrance doors. It has also considered, so far as reasonably practicable, the separating construction between the flats and the common parts without any intrusive examination of construction. This Type of fire risk assessment has not involved entry to flats beyond the area of the flat entrance door.

Client

ISHA

Building Information

Use	Purpose-built, self-contained flats
Number of floors - ground and above	3
Number of floors - below ground	0
Number of flats	6
Number of stair cores	1
Approach to flats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct from stair
Approximate period of construction	1940-1960
Is the top occupied storey over 18 metres above access level?	No

Construction details

Traditional brick construction with solid concrete intermediate floors and a covered pitched roof. Access to common area via secure door entry system with flats accessed directly from communal staircase at each floor. Electric cupboard located under common area stair.



Brick/Mortar External walls - front elevation



Brick/Mortar External walls - end elevation



Brick/Mortar External walls - rear elevation



Concrete balcony decks with concrete up stands

External wall details

Brick external walls - no combustible external wall systems installed.

Are there any private balconies?

Yes

Private balcony details

Balconies recessed into frontage of the building. Concrete floors, concrete up-stands.

People

Are there any people especially at risk from fire?

Not Known

Fire Prevention

Electrical

Are electrical installations and appliances free from any obvious defect?

Yes

Are fixed installations periodically inspected and tested?

Yes

Are portable electrical appliances used?

No

Comments

Documentation regarding the testing and maintenance of fixed electrical installations is held centrally by ISHA. The Neighbourhood Officer has confirmed these are all up to date.

An electrical cover-plate in the entrance hallway is loose and should be repaired.

It is evident that there is a photovoltaic solar-panel system installed on the roof of this building.



Evidence of testing of fixed electrical installations

Gas

Are gas installations and appliances free from any obvious defect?

N/A

Is gas equipment protected/located so as not to be prone to accidental damage?

N/A

Comments

There is no gas provision or equipment in the common areas.

Heating

Are fixed heating installations free from any obvious defect?

N/A

Are portable heaters used?

No

Comments

There is no heating provision in the common areas.

Cooking

Does cooking take place on the premises?

No

Comments

Cooking takes place within flats only and does not take place in the common parts.

Arson

Is security against arson reasonable?

Yes

Is there a reasonable absence of external fuels and ignition sources?

Yes

Comments

The main entrance door was found to be locked and secure, preventing unauthorised access.

Housekeeping

Is accumulation of combustibles or waste avoided?

No

Are there appropriate storage facilities for combustible & hazardous materials?

N/A

Comments

There is a large quantity of combustible items within the electrical cupboard which should be removed.

There are numerous items located in recesses on the staircase which should be removed. Should residents storage be required, these should be properly enclosed in an FR30 enclosure, with FD30S doors fitted which should be kept locked shut.

There are common balconies which were noted as having a limited amount of combustible items in place on some of them. Whilst beyond the scope of the Fire Safety Order, as a private balcony is not part of the common area, residents should be advised about the risks arising from the presence of combustible materials on balconies. They should make clear that smoking, the use of barbecues and storage of flammable property on balconies can increase that risk. Advice from fire and rescue authorities is also clear that barbecues should not be used on balconies.

(MHCLG Advice Note on Balconies on Residential Buildings, 2019)

Building Works

Are there any hot works being carried-out at this time?

No

Are the premises free of any obvious signs of incorrect hot work procedures in the past?

Yes

Smoking

Are there suitable arrangements taken to prevent fires caused by smoking?

No

Comments

No Smoking signage should be provided in the communal areas.

Dangerous Substances

Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?

No

Lightning

Is a lightning protection system installed?

No

Escape Routes & Fire Spread

Ease of Use

Are exits easily and immediately openable?

Yes

Do fire exits open in direction of escape where necessary?

N/A

Are escape routes unobstructed and safe to use?

Minor Defects

Are there reasonable measures for the evacuation of disabled people?

Yes

Comments

Tenants are presumed to be a typical cross section of the public and could include visitors and contractors. It is assumed that all occupants and visitors are capable of using the means of escape unaided to reach a place of ultimate safety.

Stair nosing are of a contrasting colour to assist identification.

Bikes should not be stored in escape routes.

Dimensions

Are travel distances reasonable?

Yes

Is there sufficient exit capacity?

Yes

Fire Doors

Doors which are expected to be fire resisting:

- Electrical Cupboards
- Flats

Electrical Cupboard Doors

- FD30S

Flat Doors

- Not confirmed

Are fire doors to a suitable standard?

Yes

Is there suitable provision of self-closing devices?

Yes

Is there suitable provision of hold-open devices?

N/A

Are doors kept locked where appropriate?

Yes

Comments

It is understood that communal doors are inspected regularly by neighbourhood officers and formally recorded in the quarterly/6 monthly estate inspections with residents. Records are held with the neighbourhood officers. Flat entrance doors are inspected during the annual LGSR visits where the gas engineers record on their PDA if a door closer exists and intumescent strips and cold smoke seals exist.

The flat entrance doors within the building could not be assessed due to access within the scope of this Type 1 Fire Risk Assessment. However from external examination only, the flat entrance doors appear to be the original doors from the time of the conversion which should provide a notional 30 minutes fire resistance. Doors have Georgian wired vision panels installed which all appear to be in good condition. All flat entrance doors appear to be of the same age, condition and design and were probably all installed at the same time. It is therefore reasonable to assume that they are of the same FD30 (notional) fire resisting standard. The provision and condition of self closing devices, intumescent strips/cold smoke seals, and effective door closing action of these doors however could not be assessed and this should be confirmed ensure all doors afford FD30SC standard of fire resistance.



Example of flat entrance doors provided in the building.



New FD30S door fitted to the electrical cupboard.

Construction & Glazing

Are escape routes protected with suitable walls and floors?

Yes

Is there adequate compartmentation?

Minor Defects

Is there reasonable limitation of linings that might promote fire spread?

Yes

Glazing which is expected to be fire resisting, inc vision panels and fanlights:

- Flats

Flats Glazing

- Georgian wired

Is glazing reasonable and free from any obvious defects?

Yes

Comments

Pipe and cable services within the common staircase penetrate into flats and are not fire stopped. A programme of fire stopping all penetrations in the common parts should be undertaken to support the stay-put policy which is in place in this building.



Concrete walls, stairs and floors in the building.

Dampers, Ducts & Chutes

Are there suitable measures to restrict fire spread via ducts and concealed spaces?

Yes

Comments

No Dampers, Ducts or Chutes evident.

Smoke Ventilation

Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:

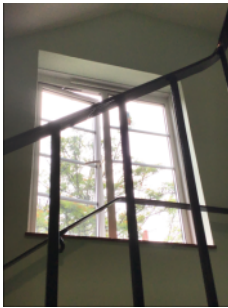
• Staircases

Staircases

• Openable Windows
• Openable Doors

Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?

Yes



Openable windows in the staircase

Detection & Warning

Is an electrical fire alarm system expected?

No

Why not?

Purpose-built flats

Is a fire detection and/or alarm system provided?

No

Control Equipment

Is the control equipment suitably located?

N/A

Is the control equipment free from any obvious fault or defect?

N/A

Manual Fire Alarms

Are there sufficient means of manually raising an alarm?

N/A

Are manual callpoints appropriately located and free from obvious defect?

N/A

Automatic Fire Detection

Is there sufficient provision of automatic fire detection?

N/A

Is the type of automatic fire detection suitable and free from obvious defect?

N/A

Comments

Although access was not gained into flats as per the scope of this FRA, it is always recommended as best practice to ensure that working smoke alarms are provided in all dwellings at least to a BS 5839-6 Category LD3 standard. These should ideally be Grade D alarms (mains powered with integral battery back-up).

Audibility

Are there adequate means of alerting all relevant persons?

N/A

Firefighting

Fire Extinguishers

Are fire extinguishers expected?

No

Why not?

- Not practicable to train residents
- Fire unlikely in communal areas

Are fire extinguishers provided?

No

Is the provision of fire extinguishers reasonable?

Yes

Comments

Fire extinguishers are not provided in common areas which is considered reasonable. Fire extinguishers are required or desirable in the common areas of a purpose built, general needs block of flats as flat occupants would not necessarily be trained in their use and limitations. Furthermore there is no expectation that flat occupants would leave a fire in their flat to retrieve an extinguisher and then return to fight the fire, since it is likely to have developed significantly in their absence.

Fixed Systems

Are any fixed systems provided?

No

Is provision of fixed systems reasonable?

Yes

Fire Service Facilities

Are any fire service facilities provided?

No

Is provision of fire service facilities reasonable?

Yes

Lighting

Normal Lighting

Is there adequate lighting of internal escape routes?

Yes

Is there adequate lighting of external escape routes?

Yes

Is there adequate lighting in risk critical areas?

N/A

Emergency Lighting

Method of emergency lighting of internal escape routes:

- Maintained emergency lighting (local)

Is this provision reasonable?

Yes

Method of emergency lighting of external escape routes:

- Borrowed light

Is this provision reasonable?

Yes

Method of emergency lighting of other areas:

- Not applicable

Is this provision reasonable?

Yes

Comments

Although this inspection took place during daylight hours, given the provision of street lighting in the immediate vicinity and lighting provided by surrounding buildings, it is reasonable to assume there would be sufficient borrowed light to aid escape in these areas.

Signs & Notices

Escape Routes

Is escape route signage necessary?

No

Why not?

- Simple escape routes
- Routes in ordinary use

Is escape route signage provided?

Yes

Is provision of escape route signage suitable?

Yes

Fire Doors

Is there signage suitable for self-closing fire doors?

N/A

Is there signage suitable for locked fire doors?

Yes

Is there signage suitable for automatic fire doors?

N/A

Other Signs & Notices

Is there suitable signage for fire service facilities?

N/A

Are fire action notices suitable?

Yes

Are there suitable notices for fire extinguishers?

N/A

Is there suitable zone information for the fire alarm system?

N/A



Fire Action Notices - suitable for the stay put policy in place

Fire Safety Management

Procedures & Arrangements

Current evacuation policy	Stay Put
Are fire action procedures suitable and appropriately documented?	Not Known
Are there suitable arrangements for calling the fire service?	N/A
Is there a suitable fire assembly point?	N/A
Are there suitable arrangements for the evacuation of disabled people?	Yes

Comments

These are general needs flats and as such no specific occupancy risk is identified. Tenants are presumed to be a typical cross section of public and could include visitors and contractors. It is assumed that all occupants and visitors are capable of using the means of escape unaided to reach a place of ultimate safety.

Training & Drills

Are staff regularly on the premises?	No
Are employees from outside organisations given appropriate fire safety information?	Yes

Comments

Fire Action notices provide sufficient information to inform persons from outside organisations of the action to take in the event of discovering a fire.

Testing & Maintenance

Was testing & maintenance information available?	No
Are fire extinguishers subject to suitable test & maintenance?	N/A

Comments

Fire Safety documentation for the testing and maintenance of fire safety systems is held centrally at the ISHA Head Office. The ISHA Neighbourhood Officer has confirmed that these are up to date.

Record Keeping

Were fire safety records available?

No

Comments

Fire Safety documentation for the testing and maintenance of fire safety systems is held centrally at the ISHA Head Office. The ISHA Neighbourhood Officer has confirmed that these are up to date.

Tasks

Task 1

Source Version	1
Category	Fire Prevention
Sub Category	Housekeeping
Action Required	There are numerous items located in recesses on the staircase which should be removed. Should residents storage be required, these should be properly enclosed in an FR30 enclosure, with FD30S doors fitted which should be kept locked shut.
	03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	9 December 2020



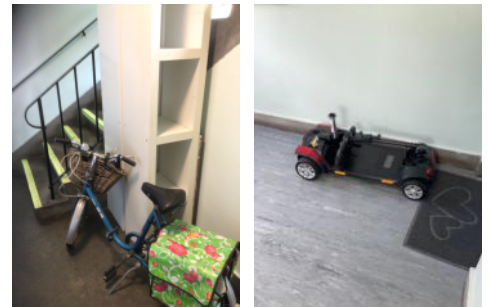
Task 2

Source Version	1
Category	Fire Prevention
Sub Category	Housekeeping
Action Required	The storage of combustible items in electrical cupboards should be prohibited. 03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.
Priority	High
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	8 September 2020



Task 3

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Ease of Use
Action Required	Bikes should not be stored as to obstruct escape routes. 03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	9 December 2020



Task 4

Source Version	1
Category	Fire Prevention
Sub Category	Housekeeping
Action Required	There are common balconies which were noted as having a limited amount of combustibile items in place on some of them. Whilst beyond the scope of the Fire Safety Order, as a private balcony is not part of the common area, residents should be advised about the risks arising from the presence of combustibile materials on balconies. They should make clear that smoking, the use of barbecues and storage of flammable property on balconies can increase that risk. Advice from fire and rescue authorities is also clear that barbecues should not be used on balconies. (MHCLG Advice Note on Balconies on Residential Buildings, 2019) 03/10/2023 This task is still outstanding.
Priority	Advisory
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	10 June 2022



Risk Score

Risk Score

Moderate Risk

Next Assessment Due

3 October 2024

Likelihood	Potential Consequence		
	Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm
High	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable
Medium	Tolerable	Moderate	Substantial
Low	Trivial	Tolerable	Moderate

Likelihood

Low Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.

Medium Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).

High Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in likelihood of fire.

Consequence

Slight Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant (other than an occupant sleeping in a room in which a fire occurs).

Moderate Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury (including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.

Extreme Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.