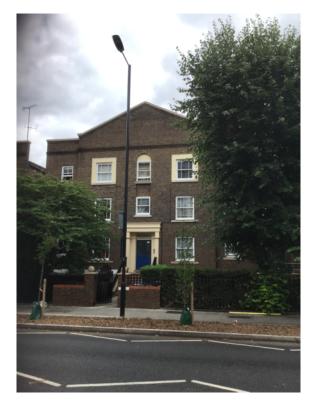


Fire Risk Assessment 224-226 A-H Queensbridge Road

Version 3

15 August 2023



Review Date: 15 August 2024 Score: Moderate Risk Assessor: Mark Thomas

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Task N	o. Category	Sub Category	Action Required	Priority	Status	Action Taken	Date Completed
1	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Construction and Glazing	The boarded covers of risers at each floor level should be made-up to provide 30 minutes of fire resistance. Those currently in place, have gaps and in many cases not secured. These should provide a FR30S standard of fire resistance. VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.	Low	Identified		

Action Plan Summary

2	Detection & Warning	Automatic Fire Detection	Consider removal of the fire detection & alarm system from communal areas, as it conflicts with national guidance which recommends a stay-put policy for buildings of this type. The provision of a common fire alarm system contradicts National Guidance for a building of this type (general needs, purpose built, self contained flats). A letter dated 6th January 2020 from QFSM Ltd to ISHA regarding the provision of fire alarms in common parts of blocks of flats offers guidance and recommendations on this matter and this letter should be referred to when considering whether this is a necessary provision, or if it is considered a necessary provision whether this fire alarm is of the Standard required.	Advisory	Identified
3	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Smoke Ventilation	Ensure windows in the staircase (painted shut) can be opened. VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.	Medium	Identified
4	Signs & Notices	Fire Door Signage	Provide Fire Door Keep Closed signs on the following doors: Lower ground floor lobby door. VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.	Low	Identified

5	Signs & Notices	Other Signage	The current fire action notices are not suitable for a simultaneous evacuation strategy, which is what the presence of a common fire alarm suggests. The notices should be replaced with ones which reflect the building's fire safety measures and explain the evacuation strategy in place. A simultaneous evacuation policy contradicts national guidance for a building of this type. Please see comments in the Detection and Warning section of this report. VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.	Medium	Identified
6	Fire Management	Training & Drills	It should be ensured that employees from outside organisations are given information on the action to take in the event of fire.	Medium	Identified
7	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	Some wiring within common parts are suspended in uPVC conduit. A requirement introduced in 2015 in BS 7671 which covers electrical installations in the UK, states that all new wiring systems to use metal, rather than plastic, to support cables in escape routes, to prevent their premature collapse in the event of a fire.	Advisory	Identified

8	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Fire Doors	Replace the intumescent strips with combined intumescent strips and smoke seals on the following doors:	Low	Identified
			Entrance door to flat C and H. It may be reasonably assumed this is the case for the remainder of flat entrance doors.		
9	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	Obstructions should be removed from the escape routes in the following locations: 2nd floor landing	Low	Identified

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@qfsmltd.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.

Attempts were made at each flat to gain access to assess the provision and suitability of fire resisting flat entrance doors, however this was not possible.

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.

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

The wall, floors and stairs in the common areas are of masonry/concrete construction.

A programme of painting and decorating in this building has included the painting of fire resisting lobby doors, fire resisting staircase doors and staircase windows. In many cases, this has resulted in these doors not shutting on the action of the self-closing device, compromising their fire resistance and compromising the protected staircase. These should be rehung to ensure they close completely on the action of the provided self closing device. It should also be noted that the lobby doors have excessive threshold gaps and again these should be rehung to ensure all gaps around the doors are within acceptable tolerances. The staircase windows have been painted shut. At present, the provided fire alarm is not of a sufficient standard and coverage to fully support a simultaneous evacuation strategy - so whilst it is acknowledged that ventilation of the staircase should the fire service require it in the event of a fire i.e in the event that not all persons have heard the alarm and have evacuated.

There is a BS5839-6 fire alarm provided in the common parts of this building. This may been provided due to concerns over compartmentation within the building. No documentation regarding the cause and effect of the system was available and it cannot be confirmed whether the fire alarm in the common areas is interlinked to those installed within flats. The provision of a common fire alarm system contradicts National Guidance for a building of this type (general needs, purpose built, self contained flats). This has resulted in a confused scenario regarding the evacuation policy of the building. A common fire alarm suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place, and indeed, the sounding of a common fire alarm may encourage persons within flats to simultaneously evacuate the building. In summary, a stay put policy would be compromised by the common fire alarm, however, the current provision of fire alarm is not sufficient to fully support a simultaneous evacuation policy. A letter dated 6th January 2020 from QFSM Ltd to ISHA regarding the provision of fire alarms in common parts of blocks of flats offers guidance and recommendations on this matter and this letter should be referred to when considering whether this is a necessary provision, or if it is considered a necessary provision whether this fire alarm is of the Standard required.

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 part due to the condition of staircase windows, lobby and staircase doors (overpainted)

This new version was created on 15/08/2023 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

Building Information

Address line 1	224-226 A-H Queensbridge Road
Town	Hackney
Postcode	E8 3NB
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 nondestructive. 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
Use	Purpose-built, self-contained flats
Number of floors - ground and above	3
Number of floors - below ground	1
Number of flats	8
Number of stair cores	1
Approach to flats	Via protected lobbies / corridorsEntrance hallway

Approximate period of construction

1960-1980

Is the top occupied storey over 18 metres above access level?

No

Construction details

Masonry construction with solid concrete intermediate floors and stairs, masonry internal walls and a pitched roof.

Access to common areas is via a secure entrance controlled by an intercom system providing access to an entrance lobby containing flats C and D and providing further access to the common stairwell.

Flats A and B are accessed within a lobby at basement level, flats E and F within a lobby at first floor level and flats G and H within a lobby at second floor level. An intake cupboard is accessed beneath the common stairwell at basement level. Fire exits are provided to the front and rear of the building.

Attention is drawn to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Consolidated Advice Note for building owners of multi-storey, multi-occupied residential buildings, dated January 2020. The Advice Note recommends that building owners should consider the risk of external fire spread as part of the fire risk assessment for multi-occupied residential buildings. Consideration has been given to this matter within this fire risk assessment. The Advice Note further recommends the assessment of the fire risks of any external wall system, irrespective of the height of the building.



External walls - front elevation External wall details Brick external walls with no external wall systems installed.

Are there any private balconies?

People

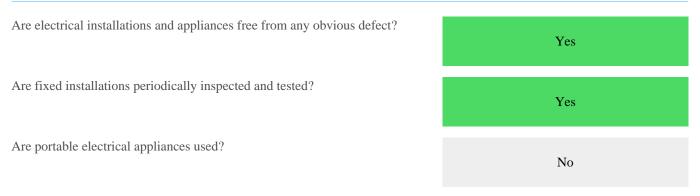
Are there any people especially at risk from fire?

Not Known

No

Fire Prevention

Electrical



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.

There are electrical sockets in the common areas, presumably for use by cleaning staff. These were in good condition and showed no evidence of misuse by residents or visitors.



Electrical socket provided in common staircase.

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
	1V/A
Are portable heaters used?	
*	No
Comments	
There is no heating provision in the common areas.	
Cooking	
Does cooking take place on the premises?	
Does cooking take place on the premises:	No
Comments	
Cooking takes place within flats only and does not take place in the common part	rts.
Arson	
Is security against arson reasonable?	Yes
	105
Is there a reasonable absence of external fuels and ignition sources?	Yes
	105

Comments

Access was gained into this building via a secured main entrance door. The main entrance door was found to be locked and secure, preventing unauthorised access.

Areas immediately around the external curtilage of the building were noted as being clear of combustibles and rubbish.

Housekeeping

Is accumulation of combustibles or waste avoided?	No
Are there appropriate storage facilities for combustible & hazardous materials?	N/A

Comments

The storage of combustible items in electrical cupboards should be prohibited.

Building Works

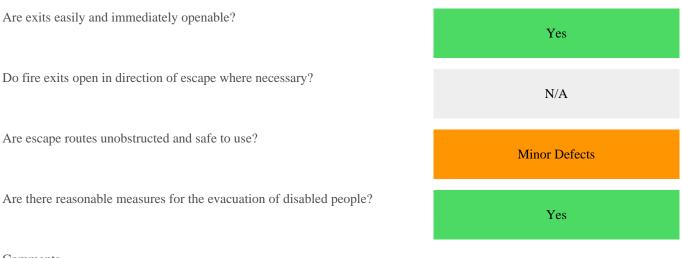
Are there any hot works being carried-out at this time?	No
Are the premises free of any obvious signs of incorrect hot work procedures in the past?	Yes
Smoking	
Are there suitable arrangements taken to prevent fires caused by smoking?	Yes
Comments	
"No Smoking" signage is provided, and there is no evidence of smoking taking p	place in the common parts.
Dangerous Substances	
Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?	No
Lightning	
Is a lightning protection system installed?	Not Known

Comments

There is no lightning protection visible, However, if there is lightening protection in place it should be periodically inspected by a competent person, to the frequency recommended in BS EN 62305.

Escape Routes & Fire Spread

Ease of Use



Comments

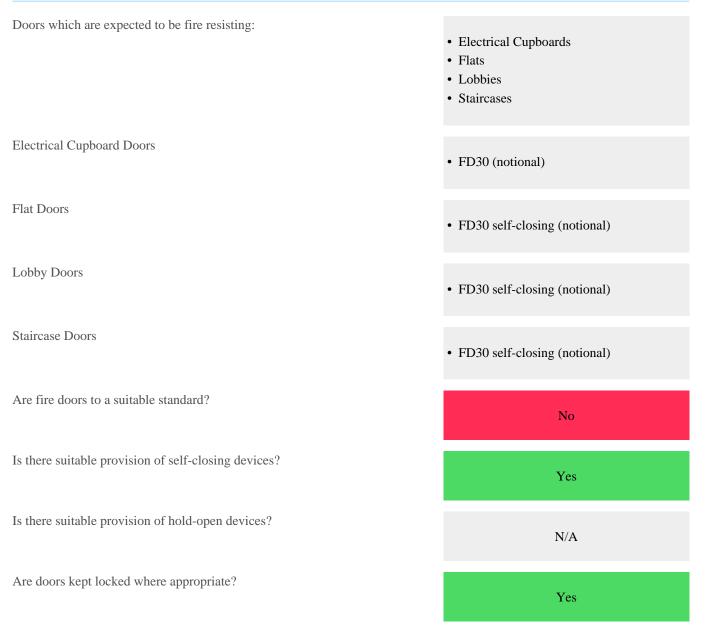
Some wiring within common parts are suspended in uPVC conduit. A requirement introduced in 2015 in BS 7671 which covers electrical installations in the UK, states that all new wiring systems to use metal, rather than plastic, to support cables in escape routes, to prevent their premature collapse in the event of a fire.

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.

Dimensions

Are travel distances reasonable?	Yes
Is there sufficient exit capacity?	Yes

Fire Doors



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.

Replace the intumescent strips with combined intumescent strips and smoke seals on the following doors:

- Staircase door ground floor

- Lobby doors

- The electrical cupboard door.

These doors have 25mm door stops fitted so this task has been afforded a low priority.

As part of this Fire Risk Assessment, access was gained into sample flats to assess the suitability of flat entrance doors, and any internal doors which open onto the entrance hallway. Access was gained into flats C and H which have an entrance doors fitted to an FD30 SC standard. Neither of these doors have smoke seals fitted.

Fire Risk Assessment 224-226 A-H Queensbridge Road Version 3 The remainder of flat front doors within the building could not be assessed due to access. However, these all appear to be of the same age, condition and design of those which were accessed and were probably all installed at the same time. It is therefore reasonable to assume that they are of the same 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 FD30S SC standard of fire resistance.

VERSION 2: Attempts were made at each flat to gain access to assess the provision and suitability of fire resisting flat entrance doors, however this was not possible. following external examination only, it is reasonable to assume that fk,at entrance doors in the building are of the same standard as noted in the previous FRA.

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:	FlatsLobbiesStaircases
Flats Glazing	• Georgian wired
Lobby Glazing	• Georgian wired
Staircase Glazing	• Georgian wired
Is glazing reasonable and free from any obvious defects?	Yes
Georgian wired glazing Dampers, Ducts & Chutes	
Are there suitable measures to restrict fire spread via ducts and concealed	
spaces?	Yes
Comments	
No Dampers, Ducts or Chutes evident.	

Fire Risk Assessment 224-226 A-H Queensbridge Road Version 3

Smoke Ventilation

Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:	• Staircases
Staircases	Openable Windows
Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?	No

Comments

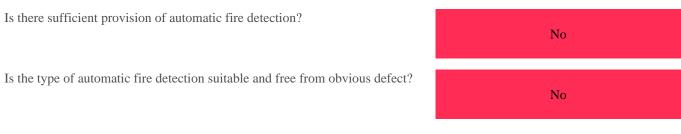
The staircase windows have been painted shut. At present, the provided fire alarm is not of a sufficient standard and coverage to fully support a simultaneous evacuation strategy - so whilst it is acknowledged that ventilation of the staircase would not normally be required with such a policy in place, it is recommended to maintain a means of evacuating the staircase should the fire service require it in the event of a fire i.e in the event that not all persons had evacuated due to the fire alarm not being interlinked.

Detection & Warning

Control Equipment

Is an electrical fire alarm system expected?	No
Why not?	Purpose-built flats
Is a fire detection and/or alarm system provided?	Yes
Areas covered	Communal areas
Communal Areas	
System Category	• BS 5839 Pt6 Grade D Category L3
Cause & Effect	• Not confirmed
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



Comments

There is a BS5839-6 fire alarm provided in the common parts of this building.

This may been provided due to concerns over compartmentation within the building. No documentation regarding the cause and effect of the system was available and it cannot be confirmed whether the fire alarm in the common areas is interlinked to those installed within flats. The provision of a common fire alarm system contradicts National Guidance for a building of this type (general needs, purpose built, self contained flats). A letter dated 6th January 2020 from QFSM Ltd to ISHA regarding the provision of fire alarms in common parts of blocks of flats offers guidance and recommendations on this matter and this letter should be referred to when considering whether this is a necessary provision, or if it is considered a necessary provision whether this fire alarm is of the Standard required.

It was not possible to access any flat to assess the provision or suitability of any provided fire alarm. 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.

As part of this Type 3 Fire Risk Assessment access was gained into a sample flat to assess the provision and suitability of fire alarms. Access was gained into flat B which has a fire alarm provided to BS5839-6 LD2 standard. 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.

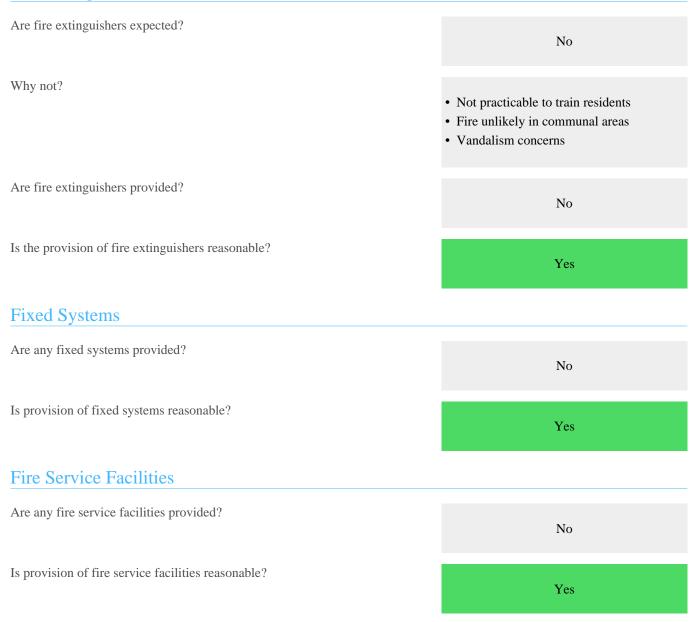
Audibility

Are there adequate means of alerting all relevant persons?

Comments See task and comments above. No

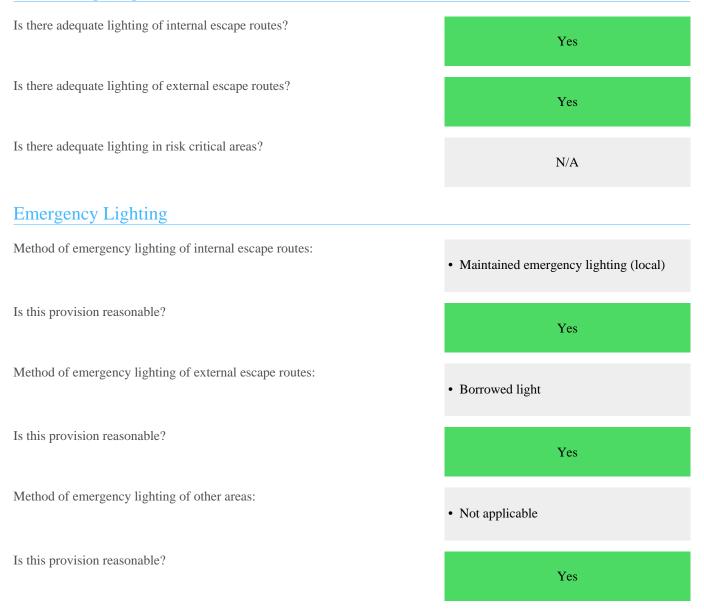
Firefighting

Fire Extinguishers



Lighting

Normal Lighting

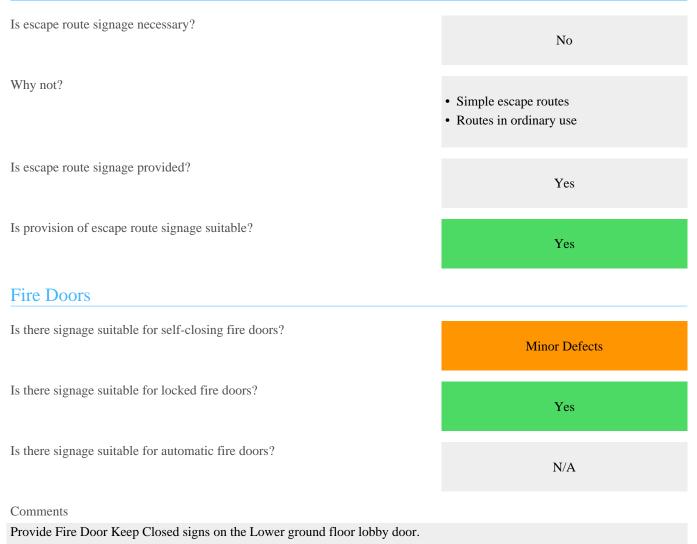


Comments

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



Other Signs & Notices

Is there suitable signage for fire service facilities?	N/A
Are fire action notices suitable?	No
Are there suitable notices for fire extinguishers?	N/A
Is there suitable zone information for the fire alarm system?	N/A

Comments

The presence of a common fire alarm suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place. However the Fire Action Notice provided is that for a stay put policy which may cause confusion to residents in the event of a fire or fire alarm actuation.



The provided Fire Action Notice

Fire Safety Management

Procedures & Arrangements

Current evacuation policy

Simultaneous

Further details

The presence of a common fire alarm suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place, contradicting national guidance for a building of this type. Please see comments and tasks generated within the Detection and Warning section of this report regarding this matter.

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?	No
Comments	

Comments

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

Please see comments in signs and notices, and within the detection and warning section of this report regarding this matter.

Testing & Maintenance

Was testing & maintenance information available?	No
Are fire extinguishers subject to suitable test & maintenance?	Yes

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

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Construction and Glazing
Action Required	The boarded covers of risers at each floor level should be made-up to provide 30 minutes of fire resistance. Those currently in place, have gaps and in many cases not secured. These should provide a FR30S standard of fire resistance. VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.
Priority	Low
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	28 July 2021



Source Version	1
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	Consider removal of the fire detection & alarm system from communal areas, as it conflicts with national guidance which recommends a stay-put policy for buildings of this type.
	The provision of a common fire alarm system contradicts National Guidance for a building of this type (general needs, purpose built, self contained flats). A letter dated 6th January 2020 from QFSM Ltd to ISHA regarding the provision of fire alarms in common parts of blocks of flats offers guidance and recommendations on this matter and this letter should be referred to when considering whether this is a necessary provision, or if it is considered a necessary provision whether this fire alarm is of the Standard required.
Priority	Advisory
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	28 July 2022



Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Smoke Ventilation
Action Required	Ensure windows in the staircase (painted shut) can be opened.
	VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	26 January 2021



Source Version	1
Category	Signs & Notices
Sub Category	Fire Door Signage
Action Required	Provide Fire Door Keep Closed signs on the following doors:
	Lower ground floor lobby door.
	VERSION 2: It was noted that this task has not been completed.
Priority	
Priority Status	completed.
u u	completed. Low



Source Version	1
Category	Signs & Notices
Sub Category	Other Signage
Action Required	The current fire action notices are not suitable for a simultaneous evacuation strategy, which is what the presence of a common fire alarm suggests. The notices should be replaced with ones which reflect the building's fire safety measures and explain the evacuation strategy in place. A simultaneous evacuation policy contradicts national guidance for a building of this type. Please see comments in the Detection and Warning section of this report.
Drionity	completed. Medium
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	26 January 2021



Source Version	1
Category	Fire Management
Sub Category	Training & Drills
Action Required	It should be ensured that employees from outside organisations are given information on the action to take in the event of fire.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	26 January 2021

Source Version	1		
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread		
Sub Category	Ease of Use		
Action Required	Some wiring within common parts are suspended in uPVC conduit. A requirement introduced in 2015 in BS 7671 which covers electrical installations in the UK, states that all new wiring systems to use metal, rather than plastic, to support cables in escape routes, to prevent their premature collapse in the event of a fire.	(13) (13)	R
Priority	Advisory		
Status	Identified		
Owner	Customer Homes		
Due Date	28 July 2022		

CategoryEscape Routes & Fire SpreadSub CategoryFire Doors
Sub Category Fire Doors
Action Required Replace the intumescent strips with combined intumescent strips and smoke seals on the following doors:
Entrance door to flat C and H. It may be reasonably assumed this is the case for the remainder of flat entrance doors.
Priority Low
Status Identified
Owner Customer Homes
Due Date28 July 2021

Source Version	2
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Ease of Use
Action Required	Obstructions should be removed from the escape routes in the following locations:
	2nd floor landing
Priority	Low
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	6 September 2022



Risk Score

Risk Score

Next Assessment Due

Moderate Risk

15 August 2024

Likelihood	Potential Consequence				
	Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm		
High	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable		
Medium	Tolerable	Moderate	Substantial		
Low	Trivial	Tolerable	Moderate		
Likelihood					
Low Un	Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.				
	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).				
0	ack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in ignificant increase in likelihood of fire.				
Consequence					
8	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).				
	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 Sig	ignificant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.				