

# Fire Risk Assessment

## **33 Provost Street**

Version 3

29 August 2023



Review Date: 29 August 2024 Score: Tolerable Risk Assessor: Mark Thomas

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# **Action Plan Summary**

Task No.	Category	Sub Category	Action Required	Priority	Status	Action Taken	Date Completed
1	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	There are electrical cables in common areas which are suspended in uPVC conduit. requirement introduced in 2015 in BS 7671 which covers electrical installations in the UK, states that all new wiring systems are 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		
2	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Fire Doors	A hole in the lobby door on the 2nd floor requires repair with acceptable intumescent filler to maintain the FD30 fire resisting standard of this door.	Medium	Identified		
3	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	The storage of combustible items in communal areas is excessive and should be reduced. 3rd floor lobby (flats 2 and 3).	Medium	Identified		
4	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Construction and Glazing	There are wall vents located in common areas which do not appear to be intumescent. These should be replaced with intumescent vents to maintain the compartmentation of the building.	Medium	Identified		

5	Detection & Warning	Automatic Fire Detection	The fire detection system provided for the actuation of the smoke ventilation system appears to be quite dated, with detectors appearing old and in a state of ill repair. Consideration should be given to upgrading or replacing the system.	High	Identified
6	Detection & Warning	Automatic Fire Detection	There is a BS5839 Pt 6 Grade F fire alarm located in the entrance hallway of the building. 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
7	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	Although the amount of items currently in escape routes is not unreasonable, routes should be monitored to ensure that a build-up of items does not impede escape. Pram and scooter located under staircase.	Low	Identified

8	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Construction and Glazing	Conduct a fire stopping survey of the building, particularly the undercroft bin store, The undercroft electrical cupboard, and externally accessed gas meter cupboard. All of these areas have cable and pipe penetrations which pass into the flats above and should be properly fire stopped.	High	Identified		
9	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Fire Doors	Confirm that flat front doors, inspection of which was not possible, are to an FD30S self-closing standard.	Medium	Identified		
10	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Construction and Glazing	Provide fire stopping around pipe and cable penetrations within the undercroft bin store, the undercroft electrical cupboard, and externally accessed gas meter cupboard.	High	Identified		
11	Detection & Warning	Automatic Fire Detection	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		

## 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.

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.

Based on those sampled, it is reasonably assumed that all flats are provided with a BS 5839 Part 6 fire alarm system comprising of a mains powered (with integral battery backup) smoke alarm in the hallway, meeting an LD3 installation standard. This meets the minimum expectation for a flat in a purpose built, general needs, block of flats.

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 tolerable risk.

This new version was created on 29/08/2023 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**

Address line 1	33 Provost Street
Address line 2	Flats 1-7
Town	Hackney
Postcode	N1 7NE
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

### **Building Information**

Use	Purpose-built, self-contained flats
Number of floors - ground and above	5
Number of floors - below ground	0
Number of flats	7
Number of stair cores	1
Approach to flats	<ul> <li>Direct from stair</li> <li>Via protected lobbies / corridors</li> </ul>
Approximate period of construction	2000-2010
Is the top occupied storey over 18 metres above access level?	No

#### Construction details

Masonry construction, intermediate concrete floors and a flat roof. Access to common area via secure door entry system at front elevation, with flats accessed from lobbies at each floor (direct from stairwell at top floor). Service/riser cupboards at each floor.



External walls - rear elevation External wall details

The majority of the external walls on both front and rear elevation are of brick/mortar construction. However there appears to be some form of shiplap cladding system installed on the fourth floor external walls. This material could not be identified within the scope of this fire risk assessment.

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 (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/buildingsafety-advice-for-building-owners-including-fire-doors) (the "Advice Note").

Fire Risk Assessment 33 Provost Street Version 3 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.

Are there any private balconies?

Yes

Private balcony details

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)

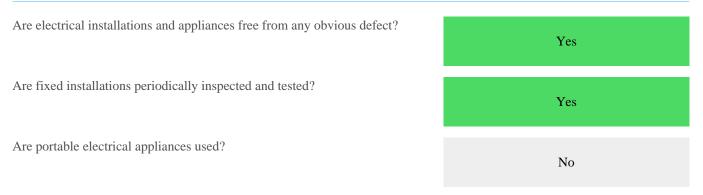
People

Are there any people especially at risk from fire?

Not Known

# **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.

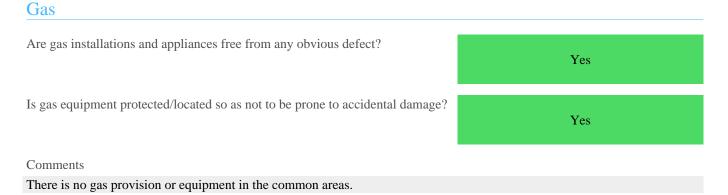
There are electrical sockets in the common areas, presumably for use by cleaning staff. These were in good condition and showed no evidence of misuse by residents or visitors.



Electrical sockets are provided in the common areas



Evidence of inspection of electrical installations.



## 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 part	rts.
Arson	
Is security against arson reasonable?	Yes
Is there a reasonable absence of external fuels and ignition sources?	Yes

#### Comments

All entrances are fob operated. The main entrance door was found to be locked and secure, preventing unauthorised access.

CCTV cameras are installed internally and externally. Whilst these cameras may have been installed for security purposes they also serve to reduce the risk of deliberate fire setting.



CCTV cameras are located internally and externally

### Housekeeping

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

#### Comments

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)

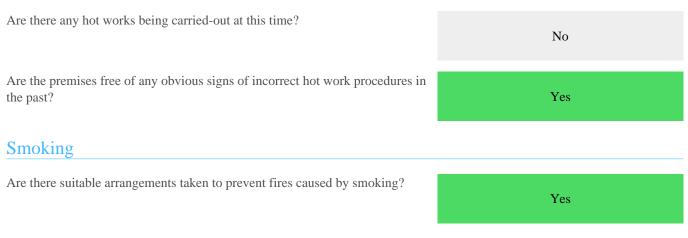
There was an excessive amount of combustible items in the corridor outside flats 2 and 3.

Paladins are located in bespoke bin stores in the undercroft section of the building. There are also four panelled installed directly within the undercroft section of the building. This area is secured by lockable steel gates. However this area is accessible to all residents of flats located on Nile Street, provost Street, and Britannia walk. This area should therefore be monitored to ensure that combustor balls are not allowed to build up, as it was observed a number of bulk waste items were located in this area.



Bulk waste item is located in the undercroft section of the building

### Building Works



#### Comments

"No Smoking" signage is provided, and there is no evidence of smoking taking place in the common parts.

Fire Risk Assessment 33 Provost Street Version 3

## Dangerous Substances

Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?

### Lightning

Is a lightning protection system installed?

Not Known

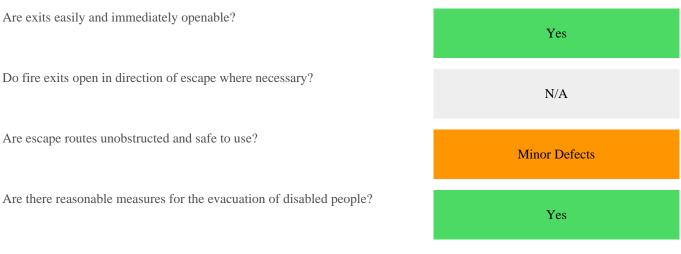
No

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

No specific occupancy risk identified. Tenants are a typical cross section of public and would include visitors and contractors. It is assumed occupants are capable of using the means of escape, unaided to reach a place of ultimate safety.

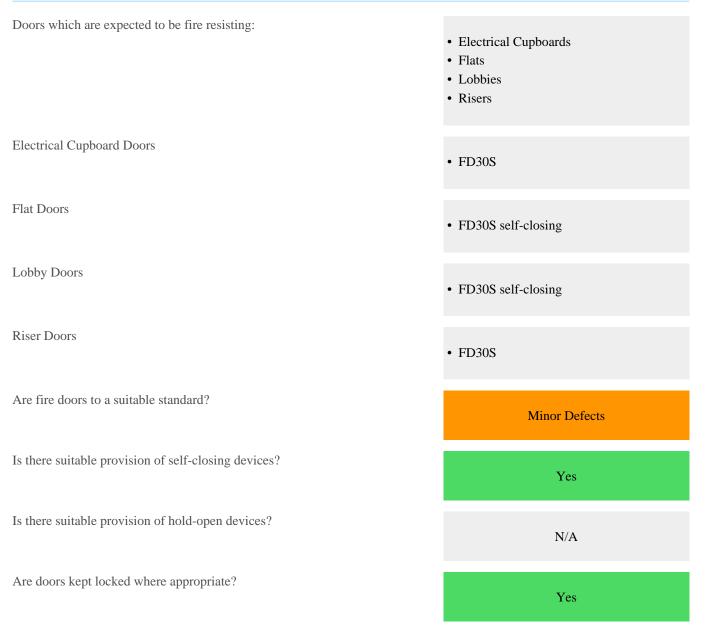
There are electrical cables in common areas which are suspended in uPVC conduit. requirement introduced in 2015 in BS 7671 which covers electrical installations in the UK, states that all new wiring systems are to use metal, rather than plastic, to support cables in escape routes, to prevent their premature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

Due to security concerns within the building, individual electromagnetic locks have been fitted to each lobby door. Discussion with the neighbourhood officer revealed that communal key fobs were not an option due to these concerns. A fire service over ride has been provided at each lobby door on every level as a suitable compensatory measure, provided these are tested regularly.

### Dimensions

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

### **Fire Doors**



#### Comments

As part of this Fire Risk Assessment, attempts were made at each flat to gain access to assess the suitability of flat entrance doors, and any internal doors which open onto the entrance hallway. This was not possible.

However, all doors appear to be in good condition, of the same age and design 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.

### Construction & Glazing

Are escape routes protected with suitable walls and floors?	Yes
Is there adequate compartmentation?	No
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:	• Lobbies
Lobby Glazing	• Georgian wired
Is glazing reasonable and free from any obvious defects?	Yes

#### Comments

There are wall vents located in common areas which do not appear to be intumescent. These should be replaced with intumescent vents to maintain the compartmentation of the building.

Within the undercroft bin store there are pipe penetrations into the flats above which do not appear to be fire stopped. In particular UPVC soil pipes penetrate through the floor slab above and do not appear to have any proprietary fire stopping collars fitted.

Within the undercroft electrical meter cupboard and the externally accessed gas meter cupboard there are large cable and pipe penetrations into the building which are not fire stopped.



Cable penetrations in electrical intake cupboard require fire stopping



Expanding foam should not be used on penetrations of this size



Cable penetrations within the electrical meter cupboard.



Cable penetrations within the electrical meter cupboard.

### Dampers, Ducts & Chutes

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

Comments

No Dampers, Ducts or Chutes evident.

### **Smoke Ventilation**

Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:

Staircases

Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?

Not Confirmed

• Staircases

• Natural Vent - Automatic

Yes

# **Detection & Warning**

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	<ul> <li>BS 5839 Pt6 Grade D Category LD3</li> <li>BS 5839 Pt6 Grade F Single smoke alarm</li> </ul>	
Cause & Effect	• Sounds alarm in communal areas	
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?	Yes
Is the type of automatic fire detection suitable and free from obvious defect?	No

#### Comments

There is a BS5839 Pt 6 fire alarm provided in this building.

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.

NB: All detection provided in the building for the purpose of the actuation of the smoke ventilation system should remain.

The fire detection system provided for the actuation of the smoke ventilation system appears to be quite dated, with detectors appearing old and in a state of ill repair. Consideration should be given to upgrading or replacing the system.

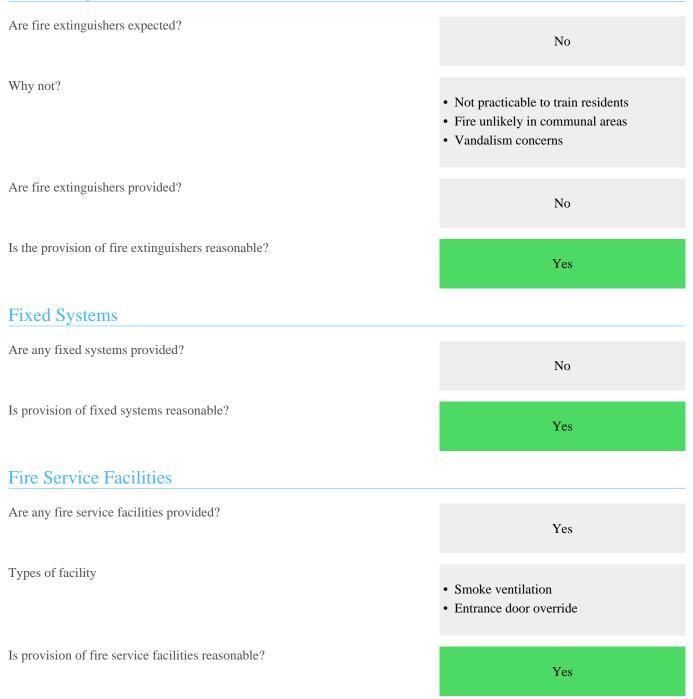
### Audibility

Are there adequate means of alerting all relevant persons?

N/A

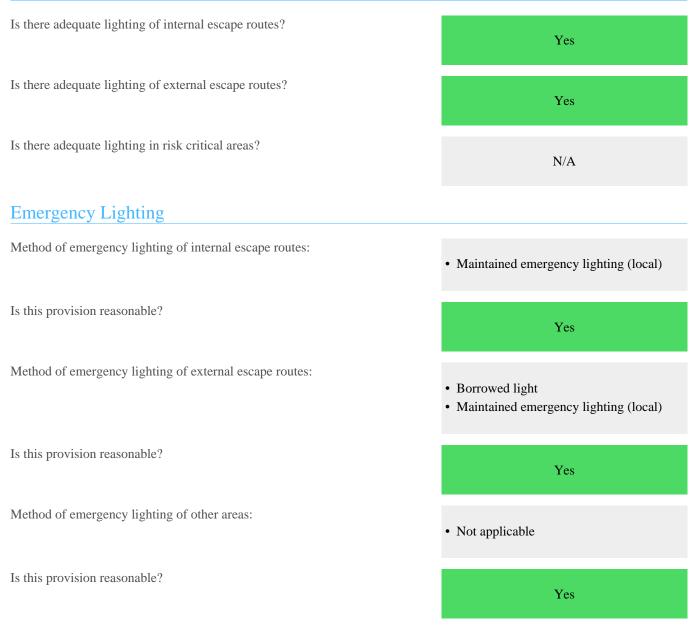
# Firefighting

### **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

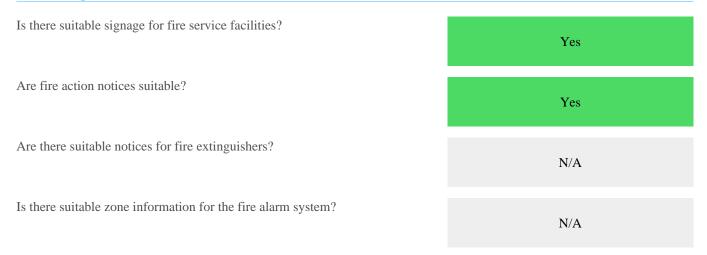
### **Escape Routes**



#### Comments

All riser doors should be fitted with "Fire Door Keep Locked Shut" signage

### **Other Signs & Notices**



# **Fire Safety Management**

### Procedures & Arrangements

Current evacuation policy

Undefined

#### Further details

Whilst it would normally be expected to stay put policy is in place for purpose-built self-contained flats, there is a common fire alarm provided which contradicts national guidance for a building of this type. The provision of a common fire alarm would normally suggest a simultaneous evacuation strategy is in place, however the provided common fire alarm system is not of a standard sufficient to support such a policy. Please refer to comments on tasks generated in the automatic fire detection 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?	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	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Ease of Use
Action Required	There are electrical cables in common areas which are suspended in uPVC conduit. requirement introduced in 2015 in BS 7671 which covers electrical installations in the UK, states that all new wiring systems are to use metal, rather than plastic, to support cables in escape routes, to prevent their premature collapse in the event of a fire.
Priority	Advisory
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	5 March 2022

Source Version	1	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
Sub Category	Fire Doors	• # .
Action Required	A hole in the lobby door on the 2nd floor requires repair with acceptable intumescent filler to maintain the FD30 fire resisting standard of this door.	Fire door. • Yeep shut
Priority	Medium	
Status	Identified	
0		
Owner	Customer Homes	
Due Date	3 September 2020	

Source Version	1
Category	Fire Prevention
Sub Category	Housekeeping
Action Required	The storage of combustible items in communal areas is excessive and should be reduced.
	3rd floor lobby (flats 2 and 3).
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	3 September 2020



Source Version	1	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
Sub Category	Construction and Glazing	
Action Required	There are wall vents located in common areas which do not appear to be intumescent. These should be replaced with intumescent vents to maintain the compartmentation of the building.	
Priority	Medium	
Status	Identified	
Owner	Customer Homes	
Due Date	3 September 2020	

Source Version	1
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	The fire detection system provided for the actuation of the smoke ventilation system appears to be quite dated, with detectors appearing old and in a state of ill repair. Consideration should be given to upgrading or replacing the system.
Priority	High
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	3 June 2020



Source Version	1
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	There is a BS5839 Pt 6 Grade F fire alarm located in the entrance hallway of the building.
	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	5 March 2022

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Ease of Use
Action Required	Although the amount of items currently in escape routes is not unreasonable, routes should be monitored to ensure that a build-up of items does not impede escape.
	Pram and scooter located under staircase.
Priority	Pram and scooter located under staircase. Low
Priority Status	
2	Low



## Task 8

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Construction and Glazing
Action Required	Conduct a fire stopping survey of the building, particularly the undercroft bin store, The undercroft electrical cupboard, and externally accessed gas meter cupboard. All of these areas have cable and pipe penetrations which pass into the flats above and should be properly fire stopped.
Priority	High
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	3 June 2020

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Fire Doors
Action Required	Confirm that flat front doors, inspection of which was not possible, are to an FD30S self-closing standard.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	3 September 2020

Source Version	2	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
Sub Category	Construction and Glazing	
Action Required	Provide fire stopping around pipe and cable penetrations within the undercroft bin store, the undercroft electrical cupboard, and externally accessed gas meter cupboard.	
Priority	High	Th Caution
Status	Identified	
Owner	Customer Homes	
Due Date	13 May 2021	

## Task 11

Source Version	2
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	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	12 February 2023

# **Risk Score**

Risk Score

Next Assessment Due

## Tolerable Risk

29 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	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.				