

## Fire Risk Assessment

51 Coniston Road

Version 2

7 September 2023



Review Date: 7 September 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 installed in the common parts which are not suspended with metal fixings. A 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. Should any electrical work be carried out in the common areas in the future then it should be ensured that they comply with this requireme	Advisory	Identified		
2	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Fire Doors	Repair the following doors to an FD30S self-closing standard:  Flat entrance door, flat D.	Medium	Identified		

3	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
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4	Signs & Notices	Other Signage	The presence of a common fire alarm system suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place in this building. However, the provided Fire Action Notice gives information and instruction for a 'stay put' policy. It is imperative that the Fire Action Notice reflects the evacuation policy in place.	Medium	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](mailto:office@qfsm ltd.co.uk).

## Executive Summary

The previous FRA for this building (FFT) 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.

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.

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.

The building was found to be generally well maintained with the standard of housekeeping considered satisfactory, with common areas clear of combustible materials and obstructions

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

The provided Fire Action Notice is incorrect and is one intended for a building with a stay put evacuation policy in place. The presence of a common fire alarm in this building suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place and it is imperative that the correct Fire Action Notice is provided to ensure residents and visitors are aware of the action they should take in the event of a fire.

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 07/09/2023 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

51 Coniston Rd, Flats A-D

Town

London

Postcode

N17 0EX

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

Use

Purpose-built, self-contained flats

Number of floors - ground and above

3

Number of floors - below ground

0

Number of flats

4

Number of stair cores

1

Approach to flats

- Direct from stair
- Direct external access

Approximate period of construction

1990-2000

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

No

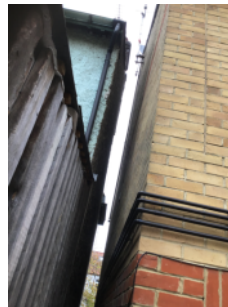
#### Construction details

Masonry and concrete construction with solid concrete intermediate floors and stairs, masonry internal walls and a pitched roof which appears to have been converted to accommodate the second floor level. Flat A is accessed externally at ground floor level, flats B – D are accessed off the common stairwell at first floor level. An external electric cupboard is accessed externally next to the main entrance.

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.



Flat A has direct external access



Brick/mortar external walls - side elevation



Brick/mortar external walls - rear elevation

#### External wall details

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”).

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.

Assessment of the fire risks of external walls and any cladding are excluded from the scope of this current fire risk assessment, as this is outside our expertise. (6) Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that you obtain advice from qualified and competent specialists on the nature of, and fire risks associated with, the external wall construction, including any cladding, of this building.

(6) This exclusion is consistent with advice provided by The Fire Industry Association and is discussed in their guidance note to fire risk assessors on this matter (<https://www.fia.uk.com/news/guidance-on-the-issue-of-cladding-and-external-wallconstruction-in-fire-risk-assessments-for-multi-occupied-residential-premises.html>).

This assessment by specialists should follow the process set out in the Advice Note and as noted in diagram 1 of that document. This assessment should show how the external wall construction supports the overall intent of Requirement B4(1) in Part B of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010, namely that “the external walls of the building shall adequately resist the spread of fire over the walls and from one building to another, having regard to the height, use and location of the building”. In this connection, the assessment should address this functional requirement (regardless of the height of the building) and not just the recommendations set out in guidance that supports the Regulations (e.g. Approved Document B under the Regulations). The assessment should not just comprise a statement of either compliance or non-compliance with the functional requirement or the guidance, but should include a clear statement on the level of risk and its acceptability.

This assessment by specialists should take into account a number of factors, including, but not necessarily limited to:



- The type of evacuation strategy used in the building, i.e. Simultaneous, staged, phased or ‘stay put’ and the anticipated evacuation time should evacuation become necessary;
- Suitability of the facilities for firefighting, including firefighting access for the fire and rescue service;
- The construction of the external walls, including any cladding and its method of fixing;
- The presence, and appropriate specification, of cavity barriers;
- The height of the building;
- The vulnerability of residents;
- Exposure of external walls or cladding to an external fire;
- Fire protection measures within the building (e.g. compartmentation, automatic fire suppression, automatic fire detection);
- Apparent quality of construction, or presence of building defects;
- The combustibility of the building structure and the use of modern methods of construction, such as timber framing, CLT etc;
- The location of escape routes;
- The complexity of the building; and
- The premises’ emergency plan including an assessment of the adequacy of any staffing levels for the type of evacuation method employed.

The assessment is likely to take account of information on any approval of the building (and alterations to the building) under the Building Regulations, and of information on external wall construction and any cladding available from the Responsible Person (e.g. in operation and maintenance manuals, or handed over for compliance with Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations); It is unlikely that an RICS EWS1 form will provide adequate assurance on its own.

Are there any private balconies?

No

## People

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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.

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 in staircase

## Gas

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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

Gas meters are located externally and not in any common areas.

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



Gas meters are located externally

## Heating

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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

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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

Access was gained into this building via a secured main entrance door, following access through a secured external gate.

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

## Housekeeping

Is accumulation of combustibles or waste avoided?

Yes

Are there appropriate storage facilities for combustible & hazardous materials?

N/A

Comments

All common areas appeared clean, tidy and free of combustible items.

## 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 place in the common parts.



“No Smoking” signage is provided

## Dangerous Substances

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Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?

No

## Lightning

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Is a lightning protection system installed?

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

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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.

There are electrical cables installed in the common parts which are not suspended with metal fixings. A 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. Should any electrical work be carried out in the common areas in the future then it should be ensured that they comply with this requirement.

## Dimensions

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Are travel distances reasonable?

Yes

Is there sufficient exit capacity?

Yes

## Fire Doors

Doors which are expected to be fire resisting:

- Flats

Flat Doors

- Not confirmed

Are fire doors to a suitable standard?

No

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?

N/A

### Comments

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 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 may be found.

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.

From external, visual examination only, the flat entrance doors to flats B, C and D all appeared to be of similar age and design and were probably all installed at the time of the buildings construction.

Whilst it may be reasonably assumed that this type of door would afford an FD30(notional) standard of fire resistance, this should be confirmed along with confirmation that working self closing devices are installed, along with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals to all three flat entrance doors.

It was noted that there is some damage to the leaf of the door to flat D. It appears that the leaf has been cut, to an extent that the fire resistance of the door may be compromised. It is recommended to repair or replace this door leaf to ensure the entire door set affords at least an FD30S SC standard of fire resistance.

## Construction & Glazing

Are escape routes protected with suitable walls and floors?

Yes

Is there adequate compartmentation?

Yes

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

There is a Georgian wired fanlight above FED to flat D, which appeared to be in good condition with no visible damage or defect.



Fire stopping within electrical cupboard.

## Dampers, Ducts & Chutes

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

Not Confirmed

Comments

No Dampers, Ducts or Chutes evident.



## Smoke Ventilation

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Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:

- Staircases

Staircases

- Openable Windows (with restrictors)

Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?

Yes

# Detection & Warning

## Control Equipment

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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

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### Communal Areas

System Category

- BS 5839 Pt6 Grade D Category LD3

Cause & Effect

- Not confirmed

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Is the control equipment suitably located?

N/A

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

N/A

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## 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

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Is there sufficient provision of automatic fire detection?

Minor Defects

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

Minor Defects

### Comments

There is a BS5839-6 fire alarm provided in the common parts of this building. This may have 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, although following visual inspection only, it is doubtful that it is.

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.

## Audibility

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Are there adequate means of alerting all relevant persons?

No

### Comments

Please see comments and task generated in the “Automatic Fire Detection” section of this report.

# Firefighting

## Fire Extinguishers

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Are fire extinguishers expected?

No

Why not?

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

Are fire extinguishers provided?

No

Is the provision of fire extinguishers reasonable?

Yes

## Fixed Systems

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Are any fixed systems provided?

No

Is provision of fixed systems reasonable?

Yes

## Fire Service Facilities

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Are any fire service facilities provided?

No

Is provision of fire service facilities reasonable?

Yes



Fire documents box provided - contents unknown

# Lighting

## Normal Lighting

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Is there adequate lighting of internal escape routes?

Yes

Is there adequate lighting of external escape routes?

N/A

Is there adequate lighting in risk critical areas?

N/A

## Emergency Lighting

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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

# Signs & Notices

## Escape Routes

Is escape route signage necessary?

No

Why not?

- Simple escape routes
- Routes in ordinary use

Is escape route signage provided?

No

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?

N/A

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?

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 system suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place in this building. However, the provided Fire Action Notice gives information and instruction for a 'stay put' policy. It is imperative that the Fire Action Notice reflects the evacuation policy in place.

# Fire Safety Management

## Procedures & Arrangements

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Current evacuation policy

Simultaneous

Further details

The presence of a common fire alarm system suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place in this building.

However, national guidance (Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats) suggests a stay put policy is more appropriate for a building of this type. Please see comments in the Automatic Fire Detection section of this report.

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

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Are staff regularly on the premises?

No

Are employees from outside organisations given appropriate fire safety information?

No

Comments

A correct Fire Action notice would 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.

## Testing & Maintenance

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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

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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 installed in the common parts which are not suspended with metal fixings. A 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. Should any electrical work be carried out in the common areas in the future then it should be ensured that they comply with this requireme
Priority	Advisory
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	16 November 2022

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## Task 2

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Fire Doors
Action Required	Repair the following doors to an FD30S self-closing standard:  Flat entrance door, flat D.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	17 May 2021

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### Task 3

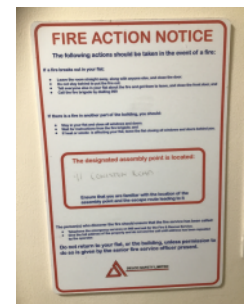
Source Version	1
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	The provision of a common fire alarm system contradicts National Guidance for a building of this type (general needs, purpose built, self contained flats). A letter dated 6th January 2020 from QFSM Ltd 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	16 November 2022

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### Task 4

Source Version	1
Category	Signs & Notices
Sub Category	Other Signage
Action Required	The presence of a common fire alarm system suggests a simultaneous evacuation policy is in place in this building. However, the provided Fire Action Notice gives information and instruction for a 'stay put' policy. It is imperative that the Fire Action Notice reflects the evacuation policy in place.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	17 May 2021

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# Risk Score

Risk Score

Tolerable Risk

Next Assessment Due

7 September 2024

Likelihood	Potential Consequence		
	Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm
High	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable
Medium	<b>Tolerable</b>	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.