

### **Fire Risk Assessment**

### **59 Gowers Walk**

Version 4

5 October 2023



Review Date: 5 October 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	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	The storage of combustible items in communal areas is excessive and should be reduced. Prams and large quantity of shoes stored in common areas (outside flat 8)	Medium	Identified		
2	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	An Electric air freshener is in use in the 4th floor corridor. These can present a fire hazard and their use should be avoided in common areas. VERSION 3: An air freshener was noted as still being present in this area. (2nd photograph)	Low	Identified		
3	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Construction and Glazing	<ul><li>Provide fire stopping around cable penetrations in the following locations:</li><li>Within electrical riser cupboards, there are cable penetrations which are not adequately fire stopped.</li><li>VERSION 3: The remedial work, recommended in this task in the previous FRA, has not been completed.</li></ul>	Medium	Identified		

4	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. Outside flat 8. Version 2: a large quantity of shoes are still located outside of flat 8, with the addition of two prams obstructing the escape route. Version 3: the same a quantity of shoes and prams are still located outside of flat 8. Discussion was held with the resident regarding removing these items.	Medium	Identified
5	Signs & Notices	Other Signage	There are two Fire Action Notices in place in the entrance hallway, one giving information for a Stay Put evacuation policy and one showing information for a simultaneous evacuation policy. The Fire Action Notice for a simultaneous	Medium	Identified
			evacuation policy should be removed. VERSION 3: The remedial work, recommended in this task in the previous FRA, has not been completed.		

## 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**

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.

This is a modern building, generally well maintained and in a clean and tidy condition. Escape routes were generally kept clear aside from the areas detailed within this report.

There are two Fire Action Notices in place in the entrance hallway, one giving information for a Stay Put evacuation policy and one showing information for a simultaneous evacuation policy. The Fire Action Notice for a simultaneous evacuation policy should be removed.

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. A large quantity of shoes are located outside of fiat 8, with the addition of two prams obstructing the escape route.

Within electrical riser cupboards on each level, there are cable penetrations which are not adequately fire stopped.

Giving consideration to the general fire safety arrangements within the building, and the tasks required as detailed within this report, it is assessed that this building presents a tolerable risk.

#### VERSION 3:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

The standard of housekeeping throughout the building was found to be unsatisfactory, with an unacceptable amount of combustible items and obstructions located in flat corridors and the entrance hallway.

The provided Fire Action Notice is incorrect and is one intended for a building with a simultaneous evacuation policy in place. This building has a stay-put evacuation policy 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 05/10/2023 and is not a review of the fire risk assessment. This is purely an on-site audit carried out at the request of the client to ascertain the progress of any action carried out against previous tasks identified in previous versions of this fire risk assessment.

## **Premises Details**

Address line 1
59 Gowers Walk

Town
Tower Hamlets

Postcode
E1 8BS

FRA Type
Type 3 – Common parts and flats (non

Description

A Type 3 fire risk assessment includes the work involved in a Type 1 fire risk assessment, but goes beyond the scope of the FSO (though not the scope of the Housing Act). This risk assessment considers the arrangements for means of escape and fire detection (ie smoke alarms) within at least a sample of the flats. Within the flats, the inspection is non-destructive, but the fire resistance of doors to rooms is considered.

Measures to prevent fire are not considered unless (eg in the case of maintenance of the electrical and heating installations) the measures are within the control of, for example, the landlord.

A Type 3 fire risk assessment may sometimes be appropriate for rented flats if there is reason to suspect serious risk to residents in the event of a fire in their flats. (This might be, for example, because of the age of the block or reason for suspicion of widespread unauthorised material alterations). This type of fire risk assessment will not be possible in the case of long leasehold flats, as there is normally no right of access for freeholders.

Client

ISHA

destructive)

### **Building Information**

Use	Purpose-built, self-contained flats
Number of floors - ground and above	5
Number of floors - below ground	0
Number of flats	10
Number of stair cores	1
Approach to flats	• Via protected lobbies / corridors
Approximate period of construction	2010-2020
Is the top occupied storey over 18 metres above access level?	No

Construction details

A building of five floors, or concrete and steel construction containing 10 self contained flats.

There is a single staircase core, with the addition of a single car lift.

There is a rear exit on the ground floor, this leads via a path to a secured gate (Maglock). This has an emergency release button provided, which was tested at the time of inspection and it functioned correctly. This gate leads to ultimate safety at street level.



Concrete tiles installed on part of ground floor.



External walls rendered possibly directly applied on an insulating material



Tiles installed at ground floor level



Unidentified wall system - 3rd and 4th floor, side elevation External wall details

External walls are rendered. The render sounds hollow when tapped, possibly indicating it has been applied directly over an insulating material which may require further investigation to confirm this is not combustible insulation.

Part of the ground floor external wall has concrete tiles installed.

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;

Fire Risk Assessment 59 Gowers Walk Version 4 • 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

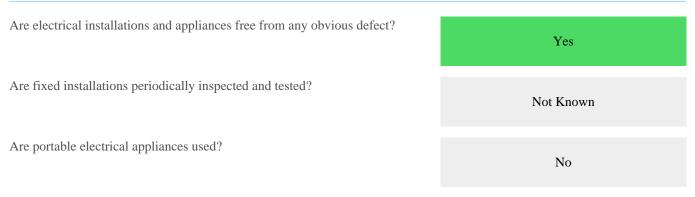
#### People

Are there any people especially at risk from fire?

Not Known

## **Fire Prevention**

### Electrical



#### Comments

It is understood that documentation for the testing and maintenance of fixed electrical installations is held centrally at the ISHA Head Office. The ISHA Neighbourhood Officer has confirmed that these are 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.

Gas	
Are gas installations and appliances free from any obvious defect?	N/A
Is gas equipment protected/located so as not to be prone to accidental damage?	N/A
Comments	
There is no gas provision or equipment in the common areas.	
Heating	
Are fixed heating installations free from any obvious defect?	N/A
Are portable heaters used?	No
Comments	
There is no heating provision in the common areas.	
Cooking	
Does cooking take place on the premises?	No
Comments	
Cooking takes place within flats only and does not take place in the common part	ts.

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#### Arson

Arson	
Is security against arson reasonable?	Yes
Is there a reasonable absence of external fuels and ignition sources?	Yes
Comments	
Access was gained into the building via a secured main entrance door.	
Housekeeping	
Is accumulation of combustibles or waste avoided?	No
Are there appropriate storage facilities for combustible & hazardous materials?	N/A
Comments	
Prams and large quantity of shoes were noted as being stored in common areas (	outside flat 8)
Signage on riser doors deterring risers	
being used as storage	
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.

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## Dangerous Substances

Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?

### Lightning

Is a lightning protection system installed?

Comments

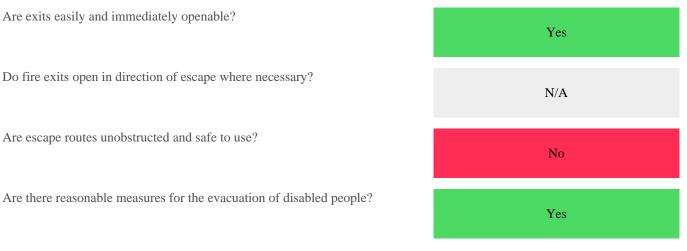
There is no lightning protection visible, However, if there is lightening protection in place it should be periodically inspected by a competent person, to the frequency recommended in BS EN 62305.

No

No

# **Escape Routes & Fire Spread**

### Ease of Use



#### Comments

There is a rear exit from the building to a rear courtyard. There is a side alley from this courtyard leading to a secured gate. There is an over-ride device on the approach to this gate, which was tested at the time of this inspection and is working.

This alley has become overgrown with vegetation and should be cleared to ensure it is unobstructed with no trip hazards for escaping persons.

There are a number of items (prams, large quantity of shoes) last cared outside of flat 8 which may present and obstruction and/or trip hazard for escaping persons in the event of a fire. These items should be removed.

There is a barrel lock fitted in the main entrance door (however, there does not appear to be a dead bolt in the door). It should be confirmed that this barrel lock does not lock the latch bolt in the door in any way. It must be ensured that persons can escape through this door at all times without the use of a key.



Side access gate, override provided on the approach in the side alley

Dimensions

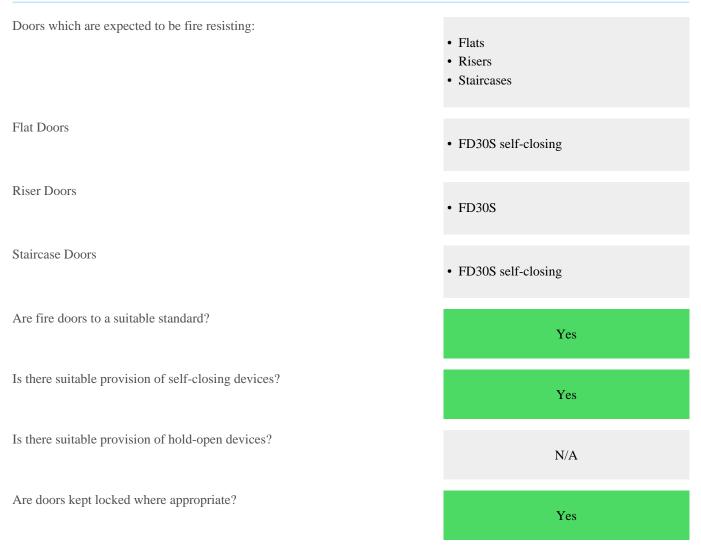
Are travel distances reasonable?

Is there sufficient exit capacity?



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#### **Fire Doors**



#### Comments

As part of this Type 3 Fire Risk Assessment, access was gained into a sample flat to assess the suitability of flat entrance doors, and any internal doors which open onto the entrance hallway.

Access was gained into flat 9 which has an entrance door fitted to FD30S SC standard, and the internal doors which open onto the entrance hallway are fire resisting.

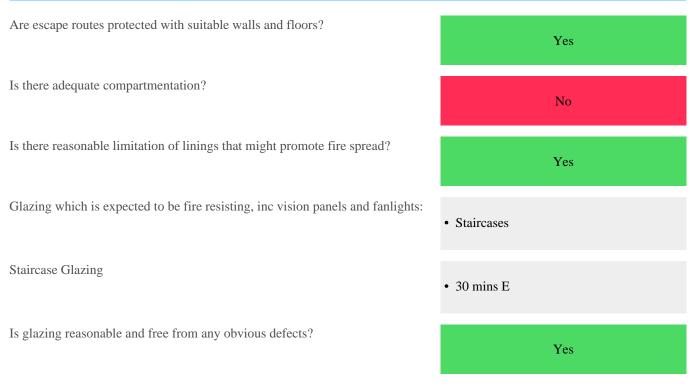
The remainder of flat front doors within the building could not be assessed due to access. However, these all appear to be of the same age, condition and design of those which were accessed and were probably all installed at the same time. It is therefore reasonable to assume that they are of the same 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 3: 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. 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. All doors appeared Ito be in good condition, with no apparent damage or defect and it may be reasonably assumed they are of the same standard as noted in the previous FRA.

It was noted in the previous FRA that the staircase door on the 1st floor was wedged open. This door was not wedged at the time of this inspection.

#### Construction & Glazing



#### Comments

There are a number of cable and pipe penetrations into common areas of the building from riser cupboards which present a high risk of smoke and fire spread in the event of a fire. These penetrations should be fire stopped using methods and materials suitable to such penetration sizes in line with current industry recommendations, and Approved Document B, Volume 2, Section 10 - "Protection of Openings and Fire Stopping".



Acid etching on door glazing EN14449 Dampers, Ducts & Chutes

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

Yes

Comments

No dampers ducts or chutes are evident.

### **Smoke Ventilation**

#### Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:

Corridors

Staircases

- Corridors
- Staircases
- Natural Vent into Shaft Automatic

Yes

• Natural Vent - Automatic

Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?



BS5839-1 detection and smoke shaft doors in corridors



AOV, BS5839-1 detection and manual smoke control at head of staircase

# **Detection & Warning**

Is an electrical fire alarm system expected?	No
Why not?	Purpose-built flats
Is a fire detection and/or alarm system provided?	Yes
Areas covered	Communal areas
Communal Areas	
System Category	• BS 5839 Pt1 Category L5
Cause & Effect	• Operates smoke ventilation
Control Equipment	
Is the control equipment suitably located?	Yes
Is the control equipment free from any obvious fault or defect?	Yes
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

	-	-		
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Automati				JUI

Is there sufficient provision of automatic fire detection?	N/A
Is the type of automatic fire detection suitable and free from obvious defect?	N/A

#### Comments

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 9 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 LD1 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.

VERSION 3: Due to current government guidelines regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic, access into flats to confirm the provision and standard of fire alarms within flats was not possible. It may be reasonably assumed that the provision in flats is as noted in the previous FRA.

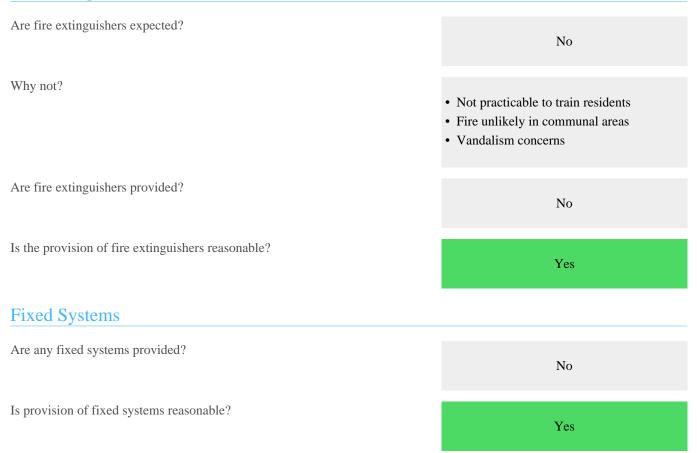
#### Audibility

Are there adequate means of alerting all relevant persons?

N/A

# Firefighting

#### Fire Extinguishers



### Fire Service Facilities

Are any fire service facilities provided?

Types of facility

Yes

Yes

- Smoke ventilation
- Entrance door override

Is provision of fire service facilities reasonable?



Smoke Shaft showing in "healthy" condition

# Lighting

### Normal Lighting

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**

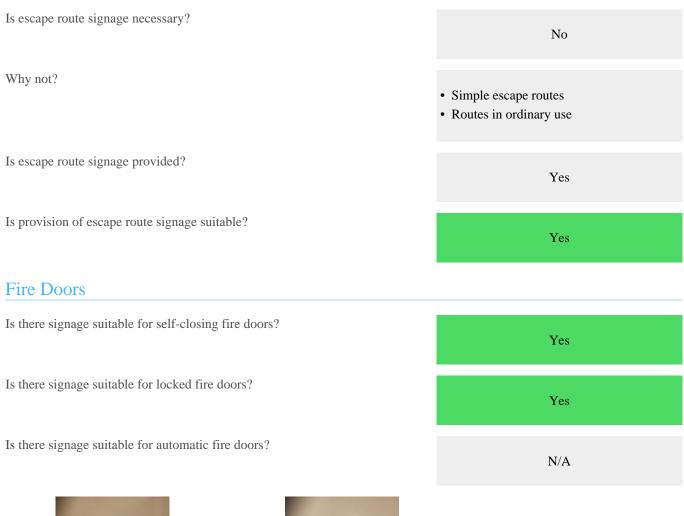
Method of emergency lighting of internal escape routes:	• Maintained emergency lighting (local)
Is this provision reasonable?	Yes
Method of emergency lighting of external escape routes:	• Borrowed light
Is this provision reasonable?	Yes
Method of emergency lighting of other areas:	• Not applicable
Is this provision reasonable?	Yes

#### Comments

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

# Signs & Notices

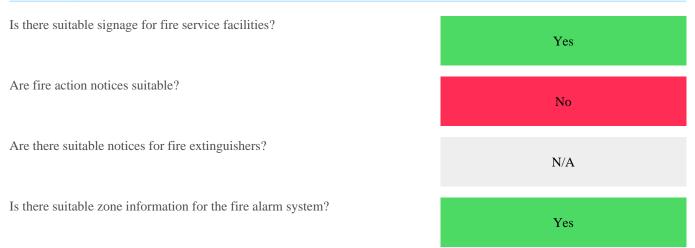
### **Escape Routes**



"Fire Door Keep Shut" signage on staircase doors

Fire Door Keep Locked" signage on riser cupboard doors

### Other Signs & Notices



#### Comments

There are two Fire Action Notices in place in the entrance hallway, one giving information for a Stay Put evacuation policy and one showing information for a simultaneous evacuation policy.

The Fire Action Notice for a simultaneous evacuation policy should be removed.



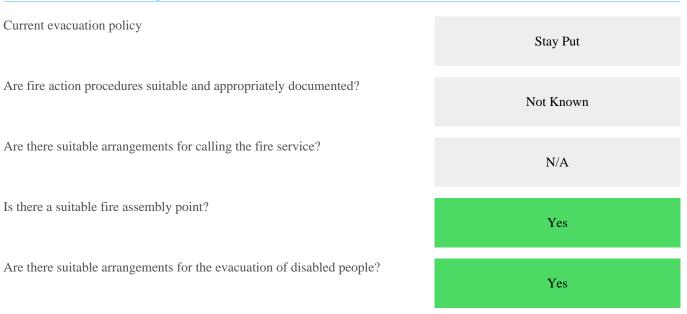
Correct Fire a Action Notice for a Stay Put Evacuation Policy



Incorrect Fire Action Notice should be removed

# **Fire Safety Management**

#### Procedures & Arrangements



#### 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
Commonts	

#### Comments

A Fire Action Notice is provided which would give employees from outside organisations information regarding the action to be taken in the event of 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.

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# Tasks

### Task 1

Source Version	2	at the
Category	Fire Prevention	
Sub Category	Housekeeping	
Action Required	The storage of combustible items in communal areas is excessive and should be reduced.	
	Prams and large quantity of shoes stored in common areas (outside flat 8)	
Priority	Medium	
Status	Identified	
Owner	Neighbourhood Services	
Due Date	1 September 2020	

## Task 2

Source Version	2		
Category	Fire Prevention		
Sub Category	Housekeeping	1 21	82
Action Required	An Electric air freshener is in use in the 4th floor corridor. These can present a fire hazard and their use should be avoided in common areas. VERSION 3: An air freshener was noted as still being present in this area. (2nd photograph)		
Priority	Low		
Status	Identified		
Owner	Neighbourhood Services		
Due Date	1 September 2021		

## Task 3

Source Version	2
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Construction and Glazing
Action Required	Provide fire stopping around cable penetrations in the following locations:
	Within electrical riser cupboards, there are cable penetrations which are not adequately fire stopped.
	VERSION 3: The remedial work, recommended in this task in the previous FRA, has not been completed.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	1 September 2020



## Task 4

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.	
	Outside flat 8.	
	Version 2: a large quantity of shoes are still located outside of flat 8, with the addition of two prams obstructing the escape route.	
	Version 3: the same a quantity of shoes and prams are still located outside of flat 8. Discussion was held with the resident regarding removing these items.	
Priority	Medium	
Status	Identified	
Owner	Neighbourhood Services	
Due Date	19 December 2019	

## Task 5

Source Version	1
Category	Signs & Notices
Sub Category	Other Signage
Action Required	There are two Fire Action Notices in place in the entrance hallway, one giving information for a Stay Put evacuation policy and one showing information for a simultaneous evacuation policy.
	The Fire Action Notice for a simultaneous evacuation policy should be removed.
	VERSION 3: The remedial work, recommended in this task in the previous FRA, has not been completed.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	13 March 2019



# **Risk Score**

Risk Score

Next Assessment Due

### Tolerable Risk

#### 5 October 2024

Likelihood		Potential Consequence		
	Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm	
High	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable	
Medium	Tolerable	Moderate	Substantial	
Low	Trivial	Tolerable	Moderate	
Likelihood				
Low	Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.			
Medium	Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).			
High	Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in likelihood of fire.			
Consequence				
Slight	Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant (other than an occupant sleeping in a room in which a fire occurs).			
Moderate	Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury (including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.			
Extreme	Significant potential for serious inju-	ificant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.		