

Fire Risk Assessment 15A-B Queensdown Road Version 4

09 October 2023



Next Assessment Due: 09 October 2024 Risk Score: Tolerable Risk Assessor: Mark Thomas

Contents

1	Action Plan Summary	
2]	Introduction	10
3 1	Executive Summary	11
4]	Premises Details	12
5 1	Fire Prevention	15
6]	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
71	Detection & Warning	21
8 1	Firefighting	23
	Lighting	
10	Signs & Notices	25
	Fire Safety Management	
12	Tasks	
13	Risk Score	

Action Plan Summary

Task No.	. Category	Sub Category	Action Required	Priority	Status	Action Taken	Date Completed
1	Fire Prevention	Smoking	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly. No Smoking signage should be provided in the communal areas.	Low	Identified		
2	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly.	Medium	Identified		
			Bikes should not be stored as to obstruct escape routes.				

3	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Fire Doors	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly.	Medium	Identified
			Repair the self-closing device on the following doors: The external self closing device to the entrance door of the upper flat.		
4	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Fire Doors	Confirm that flat front door to the lower level flat, inspection of which was not possible, are to an FD30S self-closing standard.	Medium	Identified

5	Detection & Warning	Automatic Fire Detection	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly:	Advisory	Identified
			Consider removal of the fire detection & alarm system from communal areas, as it conflicts with national guidance which recommends a stay-put policy for buildings of this type (converted flats of a stay put standard).		
			There is a single BS5839-6 Grade F smoke alarm fitted to the wall in the main entrance hallway.		
			This alarm is not working as the battery has been removed, however, it is advised to remove this alarm as it contradicts national guidance for converted flats of a stay put standard, where it is recommended a stay put policy is adopted.		

6	Signs & Notices	Other Signage	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly:	Medium	Identified
			Provide fire action notices which confirm the action to take in the event of fire.		
7	Fire Management	Training & Drills	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly:	Low	Identified
			It should be ensured that employees from outside organisations are given information on the action to take in the event of fire. A fire action notice would achieve this.		

8	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Ease of Use	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly. Indeed, the number of items has increased since the last FRA (see second photograph).	Medium	Identified
			Obstructions should be removed from the escape routes in the following locations:		
			Items located on and around the staircase.		

9	Detection & Warning	Automatic Fire Detection	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly. (It was noted that a Grade F fire alarm is now fitted):	Advisory	Identified
			Install an automatic fire detection & alarm system in accordance with BS 5839-6 Grade D Category LD3.		
			Access was gained into the upper flat to assess the provision and suitability of any fire alarm. It was found that this flat has no form of fire detection or alarm provided. 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.		
10	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	Construction and Glazing	Provide fire stopping at the following locations:	Low	Identified
			A small amount of fire stopping is required on a pipe penetration in the entrance hallway.		

11	Fire Prevention	Housekeeping	Although the amount of combustibles	Low	Identified
			currently in communal areas is not		
			unreasonable, the premises should be		
			monitored to ensure the amount of items does		
			not build-up.		

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 obtained prior to this inspection, paying particular attention to any tasks generated by that FRA. During this inspection these tasks were inspected 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.

Access was gained into the upper flat, however it was not possible to access the lower flat.

The upper flat has an entrance door fitted to FD30S standard. The self closing device (external) is defective and should be repaired. The internal doors which open onto the entrance hallway of this flat are not fire resisting.

From external examination the lower flats entrance door appears to be one which would afford a notional 30 minutes fire resistance. It could not be confirmed whether this door has intumescent strips or cold smoke seals installed or a self closing device fitted, and this should be confirmed to ensure this door affords the required FD30S SC standard of fire resistance.

There is a large number of bicycles located in the confines of the entrance hallway (5 in total at the time of this inspection). These should be removed as it is imperative the common escape route is kept clear and free of obstruction.

It was found that the upper flat has no form of fire detection or alarm provided. 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.

There is a single BS5839-6 Grade F smoke alarm fitted to the wall in the main entrance hallway.

This alarm is not working as the battery has been removed, however, it is advised to remove this alarm as it contradicts national guidance for converted flats of a stay put standard, where it is recommended a stay put policy is adopted.

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.

This new version was created on 09/10/2023 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	15A-B Queensdown Road
Town	Hackney
Postcode	E5 8NN
FRA Type	

Type 3 – Common parts and flats (nondestructive)

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

Building Information

Use	Converted, self-contained flats
Number of floors - ground and above	3
Number of floors - below ground	1
Number of flats	2
Number of stair cores	1
Approach to flats	Direct from stairDirect external accessEntrance hallway
Approximate period of construction	Pre 1900
Is the top occupied storey over 18 metres above access level?	No

Construction details

Traditional brick construction with intermediate timber floors and a covered pitched roof. Access to common area via secure door entry system providing access to an entrance hall and common stairwell. Flat A is accessed within the entrance hall at ground floor level, flat B is accessed at first floor level via the common stairwell.

Flat C has direct external access from the lower ground floor.



Front face of building External wall details



Side face of building

External walls are of brick and mortar construction. Side elevation of appears rendered over the original brick and mortar wall.

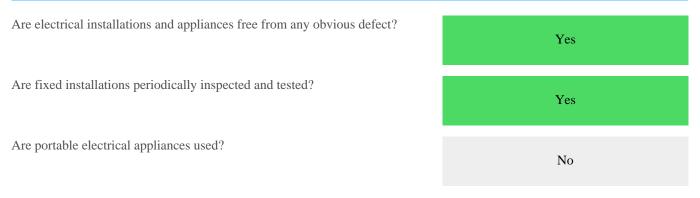
People

Are there any people especially at risk from fire?

Not Known

Fire Prevention

Electrical



Comments

Fire Safety 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.

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.

The gas meters are located in cupboards externally.



Gas meters are located externally.

Heating

Are fixed heating installations free from any obvious defect?

Are portable heaters used?

Comments

There is no heating provision in the common areas.

Fire Risk Assessment 15A-B Queensdown Road Version 4 N/A

No

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	
Access 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

Although the amount of combustibles currently in communal areas is not unreasonable, the premises should be monitored to ensure the amount of items does not build-up.

Building Works

Are there any hot works being carried-out at this time?	No
Are the premises free of any obvious signs of incorrect hot work procedures in the past?	Yes
Smoking	
Are there suitable arrangements taken to prevent fires caused by smoking?	No
Comments No Smoking signage should be provided in the communal areas	

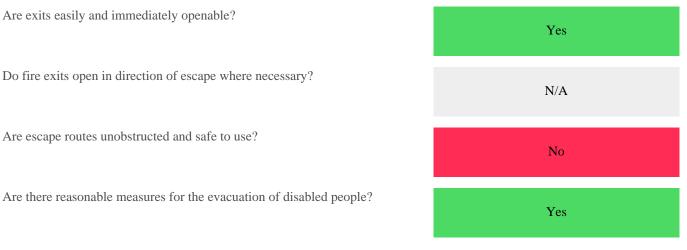
No Smoking signage should be provided in the communal areas.

Dangerous Substances

Are dangerous substances present, or liable to be present?	No
Lightning	
Is a lightning protection system installed?	No
Other Fire Hazards	

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.

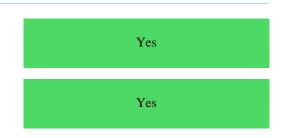
There are however a large number of bicycles located in the confines of the entrance hallway (5 in total at the time of this inspection)

These should be removed as it is imperative the common escape route is kept clear and free of obstruction.

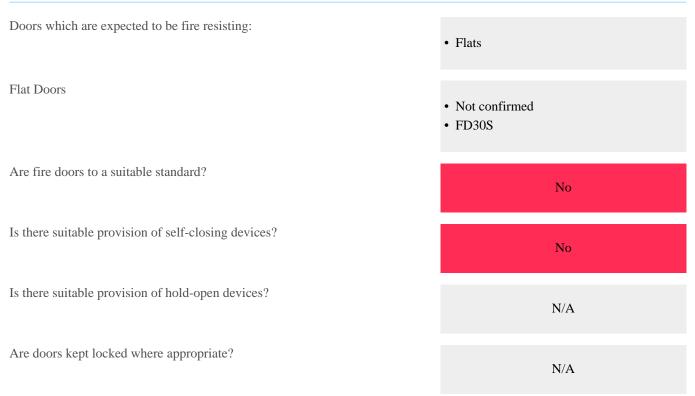
Dimensions

Are travel distances reasonable?

Is there sufficient exit capacity?



Fire Doors



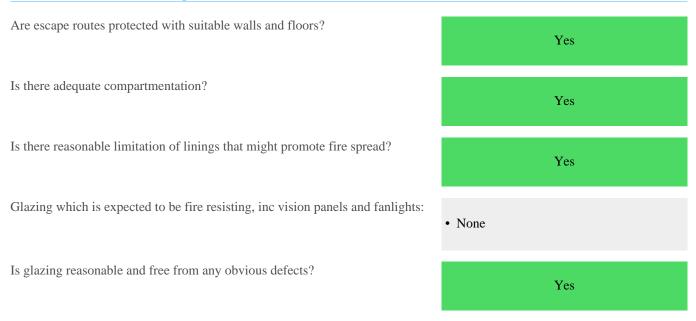
Comments

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 the upper flat which has an entrance door fitted to FD30S standard. The self closing device (external) is defective and should be repaired. The internal doors which open onto the entrance hallway of this flat are not fire resisting.

It was no possible to access the lower flat however from external examination the door appears to be one which would afford a notional 30 minutes fire resistance. It could not be confirmed whether this door has intumescent strips or cold smoke seals installed or a self closing device fitted, and this should be confirmed to ensure this door affords the required FD30S SC standard of fire resistance.

Construction & Glazing



Fire Risk Assessment 15A-B Queensdown Road Version 4

Dampers, Ducts & Chutes

Are there suitable measures to restrict fire spread via ducts and concealed spaces?	Yes
Comments	
No dampers ducts or chutes evident.	
Smoke Ventilation	
Areas where smoke ventilation is expected:	• Staircases
Staircases	Openable Doors
Is smoke ventilation reasonable and free from any obvious defects?	Yes

Comments

There is no window or vent available at the top of the staircase, however there is an openable front door.

The travel distance to the final exit (main entrance door) is short, (10 stairs and approx 4m entrance hallway), and this arrangement must have been deemed acceptable by the appropriate body at the time of the buildings conversion.

It is not practicable to construct or create any additional ventilation at this time, however, should any major building work be planned or scheduled in the future, consideration should be given to providing additional ventilation in this area.



Stairs, and travel distance from upper level flat to main entrance door.

Detection & Warning

Is an electrical fire alarm system expected?	No
Why not?	Converted flats of stay-put standard
Is a fire detection and/or alarm system provided?	Yes
Areas covered	• Communal areas
Communal Areas	
System Category	• BS 5839 Pt6 Grade F Single smoke alarm
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?	Minor Defects
Is the type of automatic fire detection suitable and free from obvious defect?	No

Comments

Access was gained into the upper flat to assess the provision and suitability of any fire alarm. It was found that this flat has no form of fire detection or alarm provided. 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.

There is a single BS5839-6 Grade F smoke alarm fitted to the wall in the main entrance hallway.

This alarm is not working as the battery has been removed, however, it is advised to remove this alarm as it contradicts national guidance for converted flats of a stay put standard, where it is recommended a stay put policy is adopted.

Audibility

Are there adequate means of alerting all relevant persons?

N/A

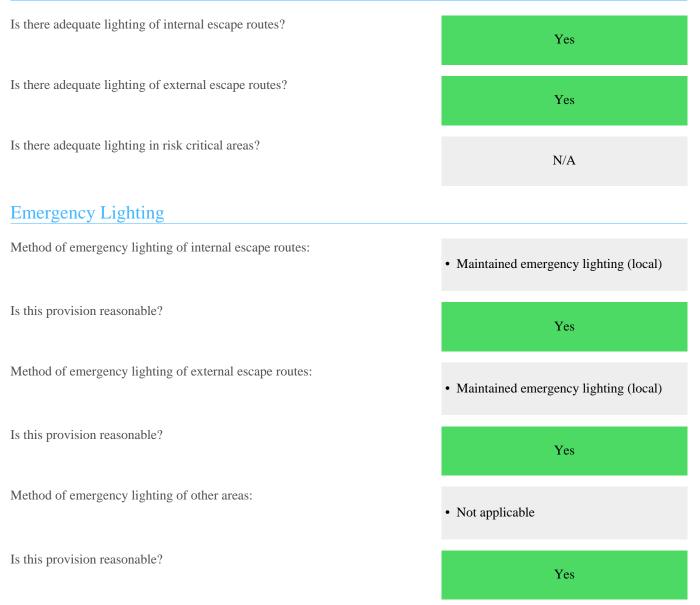
Firefighting

Fire Extinguishers

Are fire extinguishers expected?	No
Why not?	 Not practicable to train residents Fire unlikely in communal areas Vandalism concerns
Are fire extinguishers provided?	No
Is the provision of fire extinguishers reasonable?	Yes
Fixed Systems	
Are any fixed systems provided?	No
Is provision of fixed systems reasonable?	Yes
Fire Service Facilities	
Are any fire service facilities provided?	No
Is provision of fire service facilities reasonable?	Yes

Lighting

Normal Lighting



Comments

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

Signs & Notices

Escape Routes

· · · ·	
Is escape route signage necessary?	No
Why not?	Simple escape routesRoutes in ordinary use
Is escape route signage provided?	Yes
Is provision of escape route signage suitable?	Yes
Fire Doors	
Is there signage suitable for self-closing fire doors?	N/A
Is there signage suitable for locked fire doors?	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

Provide fire action notices which confirm the action to take in the event of fire.

Fire Risk Assessment 15A-B Queensdown Road Version 4

Fire Safety Management

Procedures & Arrangements

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

Comments

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

Training & Drills

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

Comments

There is no Fire Action Notice provided and it should be ensured that employees from outside organisations are given information on the action to take in the event of fire.

Testing & Maintenance

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

Comments

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

Record Keeping

Were fire safety records available?

No

Comments

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

Tasks

Task 1

Source Version	1
Category	Fire Prevention
Sub Category	Smoking
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly. No Smoking signage should be provided in the communal areas.
Priority	Low
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	10 September 2021

Source Version	1	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread	
Sub Category	Ease of Use	
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly.	
	Bikes should not be stored as to obstruct escape routes.	
Priority	Medium	
Status	Identified	
Owner	Neighbourhood Services	
Due Date	10 September 2020	

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Fire Doors
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly.
	Repair the self-closing device on the following doors:
	The external self closing device to the entrance door of the upper flat.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	10 September 2020

Task 4

Source Version	1
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Fire Doors
Action Required	Confirm that flat front door to the lower level flat, inspection of which was not possible, are to an FD30S self- closing standard.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	10 September 2020

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Source Version	1
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly:
	Consider removal of the fire detection & alarm system from communal areas, as it conflicts with national guidance which recommends a stay-put policy for buildings of this type (converted flats of a stay put standard).
	There is a single BS5839-6 Grade F smoke alarm fitted to the wall in the main entrance hallway.
	This alarm is not working as the battery has been removed, however, it is advised to remove this alarm as it contradicts national guidance for converted flats of a stay put standard, where it is recommended a stay put policy is adopted.
Priority	Advisory
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	10 September 2022

Source Version	1	
Category	Signs & Notices	
Sub Category	Other Signage	
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly: Provide fire action notices which confirm the action to take	
	in the event of fire.	
Priority	Medium	
Status	Identified	
Owner	Neighbourhood Services	
Due Date	10 September 2020	



Source Version	1	
Category	Fire Management	
Sub Category	Training & Drills	
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly:	
	It should be ensured that employees from outside organisations are given information on the action to take in the event of fire. A fire action notice would achieve this.	
Priority	Low	
Status	Identified	
Owner	Neighbourhood Services	
Due Date	10 September 2021	

Source Version	
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Ease of Use
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly. Indeed, the number of items has increased since the last FRA (see second photograph).
	Items located on and around the staircase.
Priority	Medium
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	10 September 2020

Source Version	1
Category	Detection & Warning
Sub Category	Automatic Fire Detection
Action Required	VERSION 2: The following task, generated in the previous FRA, has not been completed and therefore remains as "identified" within this FRA, and the recommended remedial work should be carried out accordingly. (It was noted that a Grade F fire alarm is now fitted):
	Install an automatic fire detection & alarm system in accordance with BS 5839-6 Grade D Category LD3.
	Access was gained into the upper flat to assess the provision and suitability of any fire alarm. It was found that this flat has no form of fire detection or alarm provided. 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.
Priority	Advisory
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	10 September 2022

Source Version	2
Category	Escape Routes & Fire Spread
Sub Category	Construction and Glazing
Action Required	Provide fire stopping at the following locations:
	A small amount of fire stopping is required on a pipe penetration in the entrance hallway.
Priority	Low
Status	Identified
Owner	Customer Homes
Due Date	23 September 2021



Source Version	2
Category	Fire Prevention
Sub Category	Housekeeping
Action Required	Although the amount of combustibles currently in communal areas is not unreasonable, the premises should be monitored to ensure the amount of items does not build- up.
Priority	Low
Status	Identified
Owner	Neighbourhood Services
Due Date	23 September 2021

Risk Score

Tolerable Risk

Next Assessment Due

Risk Score

09 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.		
	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).		
-	Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in likelihood of fire.		
Consequence			
0	Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant (other than an occupant sleeping in a room in which a fire occurs).		
	Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury (including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.		
Extreme	Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.		