

Recruitment Pack

Head of Building Safety

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Head of Building Safety at ISHA, and for taking the time to review this recruitment pack. This is a critical senior role at the heart of our commitment to providing safe, well-managed homes and maintaining strong assurance across building safety, fire safety and higher-risk building responsibilities.

ISHA is a community-focused, neighbourhood-based housing association managing and developing high-quality, affordable homes across North and East London. We currently own and manage approximately 2,500 homes, including around 400 shared ownership properties. Over the past 20 years, we have built 60% of our housing stock, and we are proud that around 80% of our homes achieve an EPC rating of C or above. Our vision is to provide high quality homes and services and contribute to thriving communities.

As Head of Building Safety, you will provide strategic and operational leadership for ISHA's approach to building safety, fire safety and compliance. You will lead the development and delivery of effective systems, controls and assurance arrangements, ensuring that ISHA meets its statutory obligations under the Building Safety Act 2022, Fire Safety Act 2021, Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022.

You will act as ISHA's senior competent lead for building safety, working collaboratively with residents, colleagues, contractors, consultants, managing agents, developers, local authorities and regulators. The role will involve leading safety case work, golden thread information, resident engagement, regulatory submissions, technical assurance, performance reporting, project delivery and service improvement.

We are looking for someone who can combine strong technical knowledge with clear leadership, sound judgement and a resident-focused approach. You will need to be able to analyse complex information, assess risk, reach evidence-based conclusions and translate findings into practical, well-documented action plans.

This role will suit a confident and collaborative professional with significant experience in building safety, fire safety, risk management, compliance or a closely related field. You will be comfortable providing assurance and constructive challenge, managing complex stakeholders, leading a small team and producing clear reports for senior leaders, Boards, Committees and regulators.

If this sounds like the role for you, please respond by answering the questions below and submit your responses alongside your CV:

- (a) Why you feel you are a strong fit for this role, with reference to the job description and person specification.
- (b) Please describe a building safety, fire safety, compliance or risk management challenge you have led or influenced, what you did, and what the outcome was.

(c) How would you build confidence with residents, colleagues and regulators when dealing with complex building safety matters?

(d) How do you manage competing priorities, statutory deadlines, technical information and stakeholder expectations?

(e) Anything else you feel is relevant to your application.

Maximum of 300 words per question, please.

Unfortunately, we cannot consider applications that do not answer these questions.

Best wishes

Dan Sheridan

Assistant Director of Compliance and Building Safety

About us:

At ISHA, community and neighbourhood mean everything to us, and our roots run deep in the areas of North London that we serve. Founded over 90 years ago, we provide around 2,500 homes for over 5,000 people across Islington, Hackney and Waltham Forest. We are proud to remain a community-based housing association with a strong social purpose and an ambitious future.

Our vision is to provide high quality homes and services and contribute to thriving communities. We are ambitious about the future while remaining grounded in our communities and values.

Our values:

We strive to be a values-led organisation, with our values at the heart of who we are and what we do, including how we approach our work with residents and each other. They inspire our thinking and help guide our actions. Our values and behaviours sit alongside our five-year corporate strategy, which the Head of Building Safety will help deliver through safe, compliant and resident-focused services.

We offer a wide range of housing choices: social rented, shared ownership, intermediate rent, market rent, supported housing, and options for the elderly. We also provide homes and support for the Vietnamese, South-East Asian and wider communities. We are committed to ensuring equality, diversity, and inclusion of all communities in our approach to services and the way we work.

ISHA is smaller and more local than many other housing associations operating in London. The roots of ISHA go back to 1933 when we were involved with tackling slum clearance, poverty, overcrowding, ill-health, and high rents. Today we employ close to 80 staff and have over 2,500 homes.

We are proud to be a London Living Wage employer, and no employee will earn below that level. It is calculated independently to reflect the high cost of living in the capital, giving a worker in London and their family enough to afford the essentials and to save.

We are a diverse organisation with opportunities across a wide range of roles and professions, and we welcome talent from different backgrounds.

We provide safe spaces for staff to speak out and have a plan to make us proudly anti-racist. This work has led to co-creating a diversity and inclusion strategy, and we have an internal staff-led Council, who hold regular surgeries for staff to share their concerns in a safe space.

We work in close cooperation with local authorities, the Regulator of Social Housing, Homes England, the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Building Safety Regulator and other local housing associations, including Black and Minority Ethnic, specialist housing associations and co-operatives. Investment in development is provided through our own borrowing, the GLA and local authorities. ISHA leads the North River Alliance (NRA), a consortium of North and East London community-based housing associations.

We have a G1 Governance rating and V2 Financial Viability rating.

[Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion statement](#)

We expect all ISHA's staff, residents, and stakeholders to be treated equitably and with respect in their dealings with us.

We will be inclusive and reflect the rich and diverse communities we exist to serve.

We will work to earn the trust and confidence of staff, residents, and stakeholders that they can expect - from us and our contractors - respect, fairness, and equitable treatment.

ISHA has co-created an equality, diversity, and inclusion strategy for 2023-25 (running concurrent to the current strategic plan) and works within the framework of this as well as all current legislation and codes of practice.

Employee benefits

Contractual

29 days annual leave (plus bank holidays) rising to 31 days after five years' service (pro-rata for part-timers). There are three compulsory office closure days between Christmas and New Year, which need to be taken from an employee's annual leave entitlement.

Non-contractual

Pension: Defined Contribution as a salary sacrifice. Starting at employer (ER) contribution of 6% and 2% employee (EE), or match funded up to a maximum of 10% from ER and EE.

Emergency leave: Up to five days per annum for unexpected emergencies. Day one is paid on five occasions to allow employees time to make alternative arrangements.

Financial services: We joined the London Credit Union that provides employees with fair, ethical, and affordable financial services. You can also access the home contents insurance negotiated for our residents.

Working flexibly: Up to three days working from home per week, if your role allows and with prior managerial approval. With monthly designated 'all in' days.

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), offering emotional and practical support, advice for legal or financial matters, a manager support line and access to online self-help resources that can help you stay focused and protect your mental health and wellbeing.

Support for continuous professional development: Everyone has a Personal Development Plan, and we offer opportunities to take qualifications, contributing partial funding and study leave. We also offer study loans repayable over 10 months.

Management Academy for managers: Ongoing professional development for all managers that supports ISHA to set minimum standards and helps us meet best practice as line managers. We are members of the Institute of Customer Service and other relevant bodies with access to training through them. We also support all colleagues by paying for one **relevant professional subscription** (with approval).

Social opportunities: as a small organisation we meet regularly as a whole team, celebrate successes and share experiences.

Staff awards: Quarterly awards where colleagues nominate one another to express gratitude for

great work. There are gift voucher prizes for individuals and a team award.

Health and wellbeing: a health cash plan to reclaim a percentage of the costs for a variety of health services, virtual GP appointments, second opinion diagnosis, online physio, shopping, and gym membership discounts. We also offer eye care vouchers, cycle to work scheme, Interest Free Season Ticket Loan (these are all available post probation).

[Access to our office - 102 Blackstock Road, London, N4 2DR \(map below\)](#)

Parking: There is very limited parking in the Finsbury Park area, but ISHA can provide a parking permit to staff with a disability who can only commute via car. We have pool cars, and staff can book parking spaces when transport is essential for their role, subject to availability and approval.

Bicycle racks are available outside the back and front of the office.

Tube/underground: The nearest tube station is Finsbury Park on the Victoria and Piccadilly lines (10 minutes' walk to our office).

Trains/overground: The nearest train station is Finsbury Park with trains from Moorgate and Kings Cross. London Overground operates a train from Stratford to Finsbury Park.

Buses: Many buses run between Finsbury Park station and our office: 4, 19, 106, 236. Other buses stop on Seven Sisters Road (7 minutes' walk) 29, 253, 259, 279.

[Physical layout and features](#)

Reception and the Customer Services Team are located on the ground floor. All other departments are on the first and second floors. There is a lift that serves each floor.

Our office is wheelchair accessible, and there is a disabled toilet on every floor, and one at Reception. The height of some desks can be adjusted and would be suitable for wheelchair users or very tall people.

There are soft strip lights throughout with good natural light. Some managers' offices are further away from windows and rely more on artificial lighting. However, those offices have an air-cooling system to facilitate temperature control.

As the office is mainly open plan, noise levels vary and can, at times, be high. Most employees sit in an open plan office area with colleagues, with computers and printers operating intermittently during the day.

There are audio loop systems in the main meeting room, the tenant interview rooms, and at Reception.

