

Freedom of Information request reference number: FOIA2986.1

Date of response: 7 April 2017

Request and response:

1. Any correspondence with Hammersmith and Fulham Council relating to the fire at the Shepherd's Court tower block on August 19 2016

See the attached documents. Please note, third party personal data has been removed from these documents under Section 40 of the FOIA – Personal Information.

2. Any analysis, investigation or opinion by the LFB into the spread of this fire or the external cladding on the building at the time

Whilst I can confirm a scientific advisors report was completed as a result of this incident (and subsequently provided to Hammersmith and Fulham Council). This report is not available under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as it is a chargeable service. It would therefore be exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the FOIA - Information accessible to applicant by other means. A scientific advisor's report is a third party report prepared by someone with scientific qualifications as an additional level of investigation. The cost of this report is currently £97. Should you wish to obtain a copy of this report outside of the FOIA, please do let me know. Alternatively you can e-mail your request directly to SDELAdmin@london-fire.gov.uk. Please note, you will need to confirm the grounds on which you are making this request, as we will need you to declare your 'interest' in the matter.



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Housing and Regeneration

3rd Floor, Town Hall Extension, King Street, London W6 9JU

Tel: 020 8753 3675

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: www.lbhf.gov.uk

3 November 2016

[REDACTED]
Assistant Commissioner for Fire Safety
(Statutory and Community)
London Fire Brigade
169 Union Street
London SE1 0LL

Email: [REDACTED]

Our Ref **11/086494**

Re: Shepherd's Bush court fire on 19 August 2016

We write in response to your letter dated 18 October 2016.

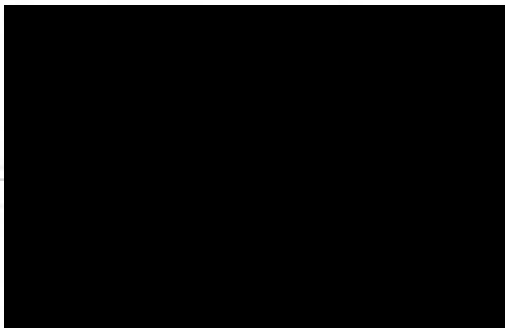
We note your comments at paragraph 2 that you have witnessed informative testing on a façade panel, which has apparently concluded that delamination of the panel may have contributed to the fire spread. We are surprised to be informed of any fire risk associated with the façade panels, as we had no knowledge of this prior to your letter. We invite you to confirm who carried out the testing referred to, as you appear only to have witnessed it. We also invite you to provide a copy of any written report of the testing and its conclusions. We note that the tests were only a preliminary examination.

We take our fire safety responsibilities seriously, and we would welcome further information and explanation of the aforementioned risk in order for us to fully assess the situation. Any help you can give us in assessing our current priorities would be gratefully received, as we would like to know whether any immediate action is required.

In relation to the requested documentation, we are currently conducting a thorough search. We wish to inform you that the requested documentation relates to a project of window replacement that commenced over ten years ago. This naturally affects the speed with which relevant documents can be located. We are also liaising with Mitie Group Plc, our current contractor responsible for repairs, capital works and surveys. You may also find it expedient to contact some of the other parties involved in the window replacement project, primarily:

- Connaught PLC, as the original contractor
- Balfour Beatty, as the contractor following novation
- Frankham Consultancy Group, as project manager and CDM co-ordinator

We look forward to receiving your response and further information.






E-mail Sent: 26 August 2016 09:32

Hi Matt,

Following your question regarding windows at Shepherds Court, these are our only records of applications regarding window replacements regarding Shepherds Court, W12:

Flat 91 2011/01844/FENSA	Competent person's scheme
Flat 72 2011/01860/FENSA	Competent person's scheme
Flat 84 2011/01861/FENSA	Competent person's scheme
Flat 92 2011/01862/FENSA	Competent person's scheme
Flat 75 2011/01863/FENSA	Competent person's scheme
Flat 90 2011/01799/FENSA	Competent person's scheme

FENSA enables companies that install replacement windows and doors to self-certify compliance under the Building Regulations without the need for a separate assessment from Building Control, thus we were not involved in these window replacements.

It appears that there was a comprehensive window replacement scheme in 2010, which we have no record of. 



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Hammersmith and Fulham Council
Town Hall
King Street
Hammersmith
London W6 9JU

Date 18 October 2016
Our Ref **11/086494**

[REDACTED],
Premises: Shepherd's Bush Court, 21 SHEPHERD'S BUSH GREEN, LONDON W12 8PH

Following the fire at Shepherd's Bush court on the 19th of August 2016, the London Fire Brigade are conducting initial enquiries into the nature of the external fire spread.

We have recently witnessed informative testing carried out on an unaffected façade panel removed from the building. The aim of the tests was to carry out a preliminary examination of the performance of the panels and ascertain if they contributed to the extensive external fire spread which occurred during the incident.

In summary, the tests demonstrated that the panel delaminated and exposed the insulation material. Once exposed, the insulation, as well as the wooden backing appears to contribute to the combustion process potentially increasing the size of the flames and fire. Therefore the façade system may have contributed to the external fire spread.

At present, the London Fire Brigade has concerns with regards to the combustibility of the products included in the panels and believe these panels have been used in the neighbouring premises.

It is therefore our opinion that as the Responsible Person for this building, there is a need to demonstrate compliance with the applicable regulation and guidance. In order to demonstrate compliance could we please be provided with the following information:-

- A copy of the contract for the refurbishment of the block,
- Any additional paperwork regarding the window composite prior to the refurbishment,
- The regulation 16B / 38 Building Regulations pack or the Health and Safety file if different,
- Copies of any certification provided in relation to the windows,
- Copies of any meeting minutes or similar of the project board (or team) concerning the windows,
- Copies of any site inspection reports relating to the refurbishment (including any associated photographs),
- Copy of the fire risk assessments for all 4 blocks on the site.

Any queries regarding this letter should be addressed to the person named below. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the response given, please ask to speak to the Team Leader quoting our reference.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]

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