

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: REV-17-0889 - Fire Safety Advice
Date: 24 July 2017 14:29:51
Attachments: [EIR-17-0889 - Final Cladding Letter.docx](#)
[EIR-17-0889 - No Cladding Letter.docx](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for review of 20 July 2017 on the basis that you had yet to receive a response. Please accept our sincere apologies that Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has failed to respond to your information request of 20 June 2017, made under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Upon investigation it has been found that the delay was caused by administrative issues that could not have been foreseen.

In accordance with Regulation 16(5) of EIRs, please find below the response to your information request, which comprises the Review Outcome:

Question 1 - The date when fire safety advice and suggested procedures to tenants/dwellers at each high rise building owned or operated by you was last updated prior to June 13, 2017?

Each tenant is provided with a tenant's handbook when they take occupation of a property. This was last updated in August 2016. A link to the document is noted below:-

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=55092&SID=21620>

Fire Safety Posters are in place in each landing in multi-storeys. These are provided to the Council by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and were last updated in early 2016 by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. As such, we do not hold information on exactly when they were updated.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **when the Fire Safety Posters in multi storeys were updated** as it is not held by the Council. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 10(4)(a) - Information Not Held - of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it. ACC is required by Regulation 10(1)(b) of the EIRs to inform you as to why in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information to you. ACC is satisfied that it does not hold this information and considers that, as there is no information held, the public interest lies with the exception.

Question 2 - Any documents detailing the fire safety advice and procedures delivered to tenants/dwellers at each high rise building owned or operated by you?

This is covered in the tenant's handbook, provided at the link above.

Letters recently distributed to high-rise tenants are attached.

As **the tenant's handbook** is otherwise accessible on ACC's website at the link provided above, it is exempt from disclosure. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 13 of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Regulation 6(1)(b) - Information Already Publicly Available - of the EIRs.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Team

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your request for an internal review, you can apply directly to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) for a decision. Generally, OSIC cannot make a decision unless you have been through the ACC's review procedure. To make an application to OSIC, please write or email OSIC at:

The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
www.itspublicknowledge.info

An application to OSIC must be made in writing within six months of receipt of ACC's Review Decision Notice. When applying to OSIC for a decision you should give your name and address for correspondence. Please note that OSIC will not be able to investigate if you have not used your real name to make your information request. You must also specify:

- which request for information your requirement for review relates to
- the reason that you asked ACC to carry out a review of your request
- the reason why you are not satisfied with ACC's review outcome decision

The Commissioner will contact ACC and invite its comments on your application. Thereafter (if no settlement has meantime been reached), the Commissioner must reach a decision within 4 months of receiving your application, or within such other period as is reasonable. You will receive written notice of the outcome of the Commissioner's decision.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only. Any such appeal must be made within 42 days after the date of the decision has been issued.

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foienquiries@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Tel 03000 200 292

*03000 numbers are free to call if you have 'free minutes' included in your mobile call plan.
Calls from BT landlines will be charged at the local call rate of 10.24p per minute (the same as 01224s).

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

23 June 2017

Dear Tenant/Resident

I am writing to you following the terrible fire and events at Grenfell Tower in London last week, recognising that as tenants or residents living in a multi-storey block you will naturally have questions over the safety of your property. This letter is aimed to provide information and reassurance to you.

As you will appreciate, the investigation into the cause of the fire remains at the early stage and so the causes of the fire will not be known for some time. However, the Council wanted to write to you now, to provide information that we believe will be helpful to you. In writing to you, I can also express that the Council's thoughts are with all those people affected, their families and friends. Our thoughts are also with the emergency services, who responded to the event and continue to deal with the situation.

We continue to work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) colleagues and the Scottish Government throughout the investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire, and we shall continue to review multi-storey block fire safety, on an ongoing basis.

As part of our partnership working with the SFRS, I attach a leaflet which contains fire safety information and advice on what do in the event of a fire.

The Multi-storey Block Tenants and Residents' Committee meets next week and we shall be discussing the matter further at the meeting.

I would like to offer reassurance on some specific points:

Firstly, I can confirm that your block **does have over-cladding**.

I am aware that following the Grenfell Tower fire concerns have been raised about use of cladding on multi-storey buildings. I would like to continue to assure tenants and householders the over-cladding fitted on our multi-storey buildings is of a very high standard and is designed to be resistant to the spread of fire. While we await the result of the fire investigation in London, it should be stressed the materials used in the over-cladding of Aberdeen City Council multi-storey buildings is not the same as the cladding which looks to have been used at Grenfell Tower.

Over the past week Council technical officers, in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, have been checking the specification of materials used in Aberdeen blocks and can confirm that the materials and design used fully comply with all relevant building regulations and standards.

All of our over-cladding is made of the following materials:

1. Insulation made of stone fibres which is non-flammable and is hard-up against the concrete wall. It is 125mm thick and is a rigid material;
2. Solid façade sheets made of a fibreglass reinforced polymer which is resistant to the spread of fire and hinders smoke development;
3. Cavity barriers at each party floor and party wall, and around each window. These barriers enclose any fire so as to prevent the risk of it spreading from flat to flat, and prevent it spreading within the over-cladding. These cavity barriers are made of both the previously-mentioned stone fibre insulation (around the windows and at the party walls) and also intumescent seals and steel at the party floors. The intumescent steel fire stop which, when it heats up, expands to block any fire.

With regard to fire safety, all Aberdeen City Council multi-storey blocks benefit from a number of systems including fire alarms and smoke detectors that are linked to a fire alarm panel, emergency lighting in all communal landings, and exit staircases. Each multi-storey block is also equipped with a dry riser with an outlet on each floor.

Fire alarm panels and other fire safety equipment are checked on a regular basis. In addition, SFRS will undertake a fire safety inspection of each multi-storey block every two months.

We are committed to working with tenants and residents to ensure multi-storey block safety and we are planning a series of drop in meetings, where you will be able to come and speak to the Council and fire service staff. Once the dates and venues have been confirmed the information will be posted on our website, social media pages and in every multi-storey block.

In the meantime, if you would like any more information please contact us on 03000 200 292 or to arrange a home fire safety visit from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service officers please call 0800 0731 999.

I hope this letter has addressed some of the concerns, you may have and if you have any further concerns please do not hesitate to follow up through the contact details above.

Yours sincerely

Derek McGowan
Head of Communities and Housing

23 June 2017

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The Multi-storey Block Tenants and Residents' Committee meets next week and we shall be discussing the matter further at the meeting.

I would like to offer reassurance on some specific points:

Firstly, I can confirm that your block **does not have over-cladding**.

With regard to fire safety, all Aberdeen City Council multi-storey blocks benefit from a number of systems including fire alarms and smoke detectors that are linked to a fire alarm panel, emergency lighting in all communal landings, and exit staircases. Each multi-storey block is also equipped with a dry riser with an outlet on each floor.

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