

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 8266.1

**Date of response:** 29/01/2024

**Request:**

*I would like a copy of the fire safety report or other reports that said council owned blocks of flats in the London Borough of Hounslow could not have any waste stored within the buildings or to have any self-contained waste disposal chutes from the upper floors to the purpose-built waste storage areas on the ground floor. In particular, I am interested in the reports in respect of the St Thomas Rd Estate in the London Borough of Hounslow and in particular the three blocks of Montgomery Court. However, as it appears to be borough wide report, I would like to see at the very least the summary covering the rest of the properties owned by the council.*

*Furthermore, I assume that the same requirements for removing any waste currently stored within the building to an area outside also applies to all privately owned blocks of flats.*

**Response:**

Our Fire Safety Regulatory team have confirmed that we do not hold a borough wide report for the three blocks at Montgomery Court.

An inspection was carried out on Montgomery Court in 2021 and the outcome was Broadly Compliant. The Fire safety team did locate some emails they had received from a resident regarding their concerns on the communal area and the proposal for the location of the waste bins. The inspecting officer confirmed they had spoken to the local authority who are the responsible person for these properties. Hounslow council assured the LFB that the new location of the bins had been risk assessed and that there will be purpose built metal bins on a hard standing surface 4 metres away from the building, not obstructing any exits or Firefighter access.

Where a landlord decides to locate external bins is their choice and not that of the London Fire Brigade. If you still have any concerns you would need to contact the environmental team at Hounslow council.

We have some general information on our website for local authorities, registered social landlords and Landlords of private residential blocks <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/property-management/landlords-responsibilities/large-landlords-las-social-landlords-and-private-blocks/>

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>