

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 6250.2

**Date of response:** 28 January 2022

**Request:**

*74 Arlington Avenue, N1*

*Please could you also share more details with regards to the conclusions of your inspection dated June 2021 - did you at this point recommend or validate the use of a waking watch?*

**Response:**

Please see my response to your queries in turn below:

*Please could you confirm whether or not you have ever issued a notice to implement a waking watch for 74 ARLINGTON AVENUE?*

Waking watches in unsafe buildings are not imposed by the fire service, they are put in place by the person responsible for fire safety in each building, such as the building owner or manager, based on the findings and recommendations of a competent fire safety person and should be captured as part of their Fire Risk Assessment.

While the Brigade has a role in enforcing fire safety legislation, it does not make a decision on which interim measures are put in place in a building. However, the Brigade's fire safety inspectors will not leave an unsafe building without any safety measures in place due to the significant risk to residents. The Brigade accepts that in some cases a waking watch is the only viable option until a common alarm is fitted, other than evacuating the whole building.

Further information can be found on the LFB website, here: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2022-news/january/brigade-clarifies-implementation-of-waking-watches-and-other-interim-fire-safety-measures/>

*Please could you also share more details with regards to the conclusions of your inspection dated June 2021 - did you at this point recommend or validate the use of a waking watch?*

The following observations were recorded on the Fire Safety Audit inspection form in relation to the waking watch at 74 ARLINGTON AVENUE, N1.

*"Observations: [Article 15 - Procedures for serious and imminent danger and for danger areas](#)*

*The temporary Simultaneous Evacuation strategy is considered appropriate whilst identified defects remain outstanding, once resolved the premises should revert to the original fire safety design Stay Put strategy. Waking watch is in place accordance with NFCC guidance*

*Observations: [Article 8 - General fire precautions](#)*

*A waking watch has been implemented while the exterior cladding is checked."*

For your information, the NFCC (National Fire Chiefs Council) guidance is published online, and can be accessed here: <https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/Simultaneous-evacuation-guidance>.

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/>