



Freedom of Information request reference number: 6055.1

Date of response: 20 October 2021

Request:

Copies of all written information or communication, surveys and plans that are directly related to or specifically mention the property Oyster Court, 85 Crampton Street, London, SE17 where the subject and content material pertains to the external structure, cladding, fire safety or potential remedial works planned or to be scheduled for this building.

Two named documents would be the Fire Risk Assessment carried out before the installation of heat detectors for all 33 flats of Oyster Court and the Intrusive Survey.

All information I am requesting would be related to the landlord Optivo or an action they have requested from you in respect of Oyster Court.

The date range I would like used is January 2019 up to, if possible, the end of September 2021 or to the present day if the date of submission is what would be considered.

Response:

As the enforcing authority under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, 2005, (RRO) the Brigade does not provide, or carry out fire risk assessments (FRA) as this is the responsibility of the responsible persons (RP). Whilst on some occasions the RP may provide documents to the Inspecting Officer (IO) we are under no obligation to retain them. Our Fire Safety Regulatory team have confirmed that we do not hold a FRA for Oyster Court.

Our Fire Safety Regulatory team have also confirmed that we do not hold any intrusive survey documents for the Oyster Court buildings.

The LFB Fire Safety team did conduct a fire safety audit at the three Oyster Court buildings in January 2021. The result of these audits confirmed that some fire safety matters require attention to reduce the risk of fire and/or reasonably ensure the safety of people using the premises and these matters need to be addressed in order to comply with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order). As a result, an informal notification of (fire safety) deficiencies (NOD) was issued for these buildings. I have attached a copy of the NOD letters issued to Optivo for the Oyster Court buildings to this response.

Personal data has been removed from the attached documents under <u>section 40 of the FOIA – Personal</u> <u>Information</u>.

When issuing a NOD the expectation is that the issues are minor enough that they can be rectified without needing any formal intervention from the LFB (which is different to an <u>Enforcement Notice</u>). As such, it would be for the Responsible Person(s) of the premises to be satisfied the deficiencies noted are addressed appropriately and within the recommend time frame. The LFB will then check these issues when the property is visited at the next routine inspection (according to the level of risk).

We do also hold the audit report forms completed during the Fire Safety Audits. Whilst the LFB freely provide the outcome of the Fire Safety Audits and notices issued (such as the attached NOD letters) under freedom of information act, other materials, such as the fire safety audit report documents themselves, will be exempt from access via the FOIA provisions. We consider these to be exempt under Section 31 of the FOIA ("law enforcement" – Section 31(1)(g) combined with 31(2) (a) and 31(2) (c)).

We are of the view that the correct balance between the public interest in building safety and our ongoing regulatory involvement lies in making information about enforcement action available (formal or informal) to those that request it, but in withholding the supporting information and evidence gathered during regulation activities.

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.



Minicom 020 7960 3629 london-fire.gov.uk

The Chief Executive Optivo Grosvenor House 125 High Street Croydon Surrey CR0 9XP The London Fire Commissioner is the fire and rescue authority for London

Date 19 February 2021 Our Ref 91/213617/PG

Dear Sir/Madam

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005: NOTIFICATION OF FIRE SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

Premises: Flats 22-30 Oyster Court, Crampton Street, London, SE17 3BW

The London Fire Commissioner (the Commissioner) is the fire and rescue authority for London. The Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (The Order) in London.

The Commissioner's Inspectors have recently carried out an inspection of the above mentioned premises. During the inspection, it was noted that some fire safety matters require attention to reduce the risk of fire and/or reasonably ensure the safety of people using the premises. These matters need to be addressed in order to comply with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order).

The matters that need to be addressed, together with the Commissioner's recommendations about the actions you should take are explained in the attached schedule. We recommend that action should be taken by **14 May 2021**.

If you are in any doubt about what you need to do to comply with the Fire Safety Order; or if there is anything in the schedule that you do not understand or need further explanation of then please contact the Inspector named at the end of this letter. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the response given please ask to speak to the Team Leader quoting the above reference.

You may also wish to know that fire safety guidance for businesses can be found on the Commissioner's website at www.london-fire.gov.uk under the heading 'Fire safety at work'. Additionally, guidance on general fire precautions and how to comply with the Fire Safety Order can be found at www.Gov.uk under the heading 'Fire safety law and guidance documents for business'.

When undertaking fire safety works at your premises you may need to seek approval for what you are going to do. Examples of this would include:

- any building works for which you are obliged to notify or seek the approval of Building Control;
- if your premises have a listed heritage status, approval from the local authority conservation officer; or
- if your premises are licenced then you may need to consult the relevant licensing or approvals authority.
- It is your responsibility to consult the relevant bodies and obtain any necessary approvals.

I would ask you to note that as well as placing people at risk, operating premises without having adequate general fire precaution in place to remove or reduce fire risk and to ensure people can safely escape if a fire does occurs can result in a criminal offence being committed. This letter and its associated schedule are consequently issued without prejudice to any legal action the Commissioner may subsequently take regarding failures to comply with the Fire Safety Order.

Yours faithfully

PP



Directorate of Operations FSR-AdminSupport@london-fire.gov.uk

Reply to Inspecting Officer
Direct **T** 020 8555 1200 x

Enc: Form FS03_01b Legislation Extracts

Form FS03_06 Definitions of standard terms

Cc: Optivo, PO Box 322, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8PQ

Notes to accompany the Notification of Deficiencies schedule.

Important information to consider before taking remedial steps:

- 1. Certain terms written in BLOCK CAPITALS in the attached schedule are standard terms defined in "Definitions of standard terms used in means of escape requirements" which form part of this schedule.
- 2. Officers of the Commissioner may visit your premises again to check on the action you have taken
- 3. Notwithstanding any consultation undertaken by the Commissioner, before you make any alterations to the premises, you must apply for local authority building control department approval (and/or the approval of any other bodies having a statutory interest in the premises) if their permission is required for those alterations to be made.
- 4. There may be suitable alternative safety measures to those detailed in this schedule, which would meet the requirements of the Order. If you wish to propose or discuss any alternative measures you should get in touch with the person named as the contact above, before you take any action, to ensure that your proposed measures are deemed satisfactory by the Commissioner.
- 5. Remedial steps must be undertaken by a competent person who has sufficient training, experience, knowledge or other qualities to enable him or her to properly undertake them.
- 6. We recommend that remedial steps are undertaken in accordance with the appropriate British or European Standards, or recognised industry guidance.

THE REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005

Your rights when Fire Safety Inspecting Officers take action.

The Commissioner has a duty to enforce the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

If an Inspector:

tells you to do something - you have a right to a verbal and written explanation of what needs to be done and why.

Intends to take immediate action - for example by issuing an enforcement notice this will include a written explanation either forming part of the notice or by separate letter.

Issues a formal notice - you will be told in writing about your right to appeal to a magistrates' court. You will be told:

- how to appeal;
- where and within what period an appeal may be brought; and
- that action required by a prohibition/restriction notice is not suspended while an appeal is pending unless the court so directs.
- that action required by an enforcement notice is suspended while an appeal is pending.

Issues a Notification of Fire Safety Deficiencies - <u>full discussion should have taken place and agreed improvements to bring the premises up to minimal standards should be formulated. A Notification of Fire Safety Deficiencies carries no statutory force but may result in formal action being considered if the agreed improvements do not take place.</u>

The procedures and rights above provide ways for you to have your views heard. If you are not happy with the inspecting officer's action you should contact the Team Leader on the telephone number shown at the head of the covering letter in the first instance.

ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY INFORMATION ACT 1988 SECTION 4 - PROTECTION OF TRADE SECRETS

The above Act requires the London Fire Commissioner to maintain public registers of notices issued under Article 30 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, (other than those which impose requirements or prohibitions solely for the protection of persons at work) and Sections 21 and 22 of the Health and Safety at Work etc, Act 1974.

Provisions are made within the Act for persons on whom the above notices are served to appeal against any proposed entry in the register which may disclose "trade secrets" or "secret manufacturing processes".

Entries in the register are required to be made after the period for appeal against the notice expires or after any appeal is disposed of.

If you feel that any such entry would disclose information about a trade secret or secret manufacturing process you may write to the Commissioner within a period of 14 days following the service of the notice, requesting exclusion of these details (see Section 4 of the 1988 Act).

SCHEDULE

PREMISES: Flats 22-30 Oyster Court, Crampton Street, London, SE17 3BW

FILE NUMBER: 91/213617

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the Commissioner's letter dated 19 February 2021.

The condition(s) specified in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, were being contravened and the following step(s) need(s) to be taken in order to comply with the above legislation:

Article	Area of Concern	Steps Considered necessary to remedy the contravention.
Article 14	At the time of the audit the emergency routes or exits were inadequate. It was found that the compartmentation within the riser cupboards located in the escape staircase was not adequate.	Ensure adequate emergency routes and exits, for use by relevant persons in the premises, are available and can be safely and effectively used at all relevant times. This can be achieved by ensuring that any breaches in compartmentation are filled with a suitable FIRE RESISTING material.
Article 8	At the time of the audit the FIRE RESISTING separation in your premises was inadequate. It was found that there were breaches in compartmentation within the riser cupboards on each floor.	Provide suitable FIRE RESISTING separation by ensuring that any breaches are filled with a suitable FIRE RESISTING material.

RECOMMENDATIONS NOT FORMING REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHEDULE

The Commissioner would strongly urge that you consider the presence of combustible façade cladding materials as part of the risk assessment process for these premises. All relevant information about any replacement window and facade schemes should be made fully available to fire risk assessors. Where no reliable information is available for a given property, a strategy to assess the risk and where necessary implement short, medium and long term actions to address the risk should be implemented.

Where remedial measures are to be undertaken to which consultation requirements under Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 will apply, the Commissioner would urge you to consider application of the disapplication provisions under Section 20ZA of that Act.



Minicom 020 7960 3629 london-fire.gov.uk

The Company Secretary
Optivo Homes Limited
Grosvenor House
125 High Street
Croydon
CRO 9XP

The London Fire Commissioner is the fire and rescue authority for London

Date 22 February 2021 Our Ref 91/000687/MH

Dear Sir/Madam

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005: NOTIFICATION OF FIRE SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

Premises: Flats 1-11 Oyster Court, Crampton Street, London, SE17 3BW

The London Fire Commissioner (the Commissioner) is the fire and rescue authority for London. The Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (The Order) in London.

The Commissioner's Inspectors have recently carried out an inspection of the above-mentioned premises. During the inspection, it was noted that some fire safety matters require attention to reduce the risk of fire and/or reasonably ensure the safety of people using the premises. These matters need to be addressed in order to comply with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order).

The matters that need to be addressed, together with the Commissioner's recommendations about the actions you should take are explained in the attached schedule. We recommend that action should be taken by 17 May 2021.

If you are in any doubt about what you need to do to comply with the Fire Safety Order; or if there is anything in the schedule that you do not understand or need further explanation of then please contact the Inspector named at the end of this letter. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the response given please ask to speak to the Team Leader quoting the above reference.

You may also wish to know that fire safety guidance for businesses can be found on the Commissioner's website at www.london-fire.gov.uk under the heading 'Fire safety at work'. Additionally, guidance on general fire precautions and how to comply with the Fire Safety Order can be found at www.Gov.uk under the heading 'Fire safety law and guidance documents for business'.

When undertaking fire safety works at your premises you may need to seek approval for what you are going to do. Examples of this would include:

- any building works for which you are obliged to notify or seek the approval of Building Control;
- if your premises have a listed heritage status, approval from the local authority conservation officer; or
- if your premises are licenced then you may need to consult the relevant licensing or approvals authority.
- It is your responsibility to consult the relevant bodies and obtain any necessary approvals.

I would ask you to note that as well as placing people at risk, operating premises without having adequate general fire precaution in place to remove or reduce fire risk and to ensure people can safely escape if a fire does occurs can result in a criminal offence being committed. This letter and its associated schedule are consequently issued without prejudice to any legal action the Commissioner may subsequently take regarding failures to comply with the Fire Safety Order.

Yours faithfully

for Assistant Commissioner (Fire Safety)

Directorate of Operations FSR-AdminSupport@london-fire.gov.uk

Reply to Inspecting Officer
Direct **T** 020 8555 1200 x

Enc: Form FS03_01b Legislation Extracts

Form FS03_06 Definitions of standard terms

Notes to accompany the Notification of Deficiencies schedule.

Important information to consider before taking remedial steps:

- 1. Certain terms written in BLOCK CAPITALS in the attached schedule are standard terms defined in "Definitions of standard terms used in means of escape requirements" which form part of this schedule.
- 2. Officers of the Commissioner may visit your premises again to check on the action you have taken
- 3. Notwithstanding any consultation undertaken by the Commissioner, before you make any alterations to the premises, you must apply for local authority building control department approval (and/or the approval of any other bodies having a statutory interest in the premises) if their permission is required for those alterations to be made.
- 4. There may be suitable alternative safety measures to those detailed in this schedule, which would meet the requirements of the Order. If you wish to propose or discuss any alternative measures you should get in touch with the person named as the contact above, before you take any action, to ensure that your proposed measures are deemed satisfactory by the Commissioner.
- 5. Remedial steps must be undertaken by a competent person who has sufficient training, experience, knowledge or other qualities to enable him or her to properly undertake them.
- 6. We recommend that remedial steps are undertaken in accordance with the appropriate British or European Standards, or recognised industry guidance.

THE REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005

Your rights when Fire Safety Inspecting Officers take action.

The Commissioner has a duty to enforce the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

If an Inspector:

tells you to do something - you have a right to a verbal and written explanation of what needs to be done and why.

Intends to take immediate action - for example by issuing an enforcement notice this will include a written explanation either forming part of the notice or by separate letter.

Issues a formal notice - you will be told in writing about your right to appeal to a magistrates' court. You will be told:

- ♦ how to appeal;
- where and within what period an appeal may be brought; and
- that action required by a prohibition/restriction notice is not suspended while an appeal is pending unless the court so directs.
- that action required by an enforcement notice is suspended while an appeal is pending.

Issues a Notification of Fire Safety Deficiencies - <u>full discussion should have taken place and agreed improvements to bring the premises up to minimal standards should be formulated. A Notification of Fire Safety Deficiencies carries no statutory force but may result in formal action being considered if the agreed improvements do not take place.</u>

The procedures and rights above provide ways for you to have your views heard. If you are not happy with the inspecting officer's action you should contact the Team Leader on the telephone number shown at the head of the covering letter in the first instance.

ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY INFORMATION ACT 1988 SECTION 4 - PROTECTION OF TRADE SECRETS

The above Act requires the London Fire Commissioner to maintain public registers of notices issued under Article 30 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, (other than those which impose requirements or prohibitions solely for the protection of persons at work) and Sections 21 and 22 of the Health and Safety at Work etc, Act 1974.

Provisions are made within the Act for persons on whom the above notices are served to appeal against any proposed entry in the register which may disclose "trade secrets" or "secret manufacturing processes".

Entries in the register are required to be made after the period for appeal against the notice expires or after any appeal is disposed of.

If you feel that any such entry would disclose information about a trade secret or secret manufacturing process you may write to the Commissioner within a period of 14 days following the service of the notice, requesting exclusion of these details (see Section 4 of the 1988 Act).

SCHEDULE

PREMISES: Flats 1-11 Oyster Court, Crampton Street, London, SE17 3BW

FILE NUMBER: 91/000687

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the Commissioner's letter dated 22 February 2021.

The condition(s) specified in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, were being contravened and the following step(s) need(s) to be taken in order to comply with the above legislation:

Article	Area of Concern	Steps Considered necessary to remedy the contravention.
Article 14	At the time of the audit the emergency routes or exits were inadequate. It was found that there were compartmentation breaches within the riser cupboards which are located within the protected staircase. This could potentially allow smoke or flame into the protected staircase and compromise the means of escape.	Ensure adequate emergency routes and exits, for use by relevant persons in the premises, are available and can be safely and effectively used at all relevant times. This can be achieved by ensuring that all compartmentation breaches within the riser cupboards are filled with suitable FIRE RESISTING material.
Article 8	At the time of the audit the FIRE RESISTING separation in your premises was inadequate. It was found that there were visible gaps within the riser cupboards where cabling entered the walls of the protected staircase and ceiling voids.	Provide suitable FIRE RESISTING separation by ensuring that all breaches in compartmentation are filled with a suitable FIRE RESISTING material.

RECOMMENDATIONS NOT FORMING REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHEDULE

The Commissioner would strongly urge that you consider the presence of combustible façade cladding materials as part of the risk assessment process for these premises. All relevant information about any replacement window and facade schemes should be made fully available to fire risk assessors. Where no reliable information is available for a given property, a strategy to assess the risk and where necessary implement short, medium and long term actions to address the risk should be implemented.

Where remedial measures are to be undertaken to which consultation requirements under Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 will apply, the Commissioner would urge you to consider application of the disapplication provisions under Section 20ZA of that Act.



Minicom 020 7960 3629 london-fire.gov.uk

The Company Secretary
Optivo Homes Limited
Grosvenor House
125 High Street
Croydon
CR0 9XP

The London Fire Commissioner is the fire and rescue authority for London

Date 12 February 2021 Our Ref 91/000430/MH

Dear Sir/Madam

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005: NOTIFICATION OF FIRE SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

Premises: Flats 12-21 Oyster Court, Crampton Street, London, SE17 3BW

The London Fire Commissioner (the Commissioner) is the fire and rescue authority for London. The Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (The Order) in London.

The Commissioner's Inspectors have recently carried out an inspection of the above-mentioned premises. During the inspection, it was noted that some fire safety matters require attention to reduce the risk of fire and/or reasonably ensure the safety of people using the premises. These matters need to be addressed in order to comply with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order).

The matters that need to be addressed, together with the Commissioner's recommendations about the actions you should take are explained in the attached schedule. We recommend that action should be taken by **7 May 2021**.

If you are in any doubt about what you need to do to comply with the Fire Safety Order; or if there is anything in the schedule that you do not understand or need further explanation of then please contact the Inspector named at the end of this letter. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the response given please ask to speak to the Team Leader quoting the above reference.

You may also wish to know that fire safety guidance for businesses can be found on the Commissioner's website at www.london-fire.gov.uk under the heading 'Fire safety at work'. Additionally, guidance on general fire precautions and how to comply with the Fire Safety Order can be found at www.Gov.uk under the heading 'Fire safety law and guidance documents for business'.

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Yours faithfully,

for Assistant Commissioner (Fire Safety)

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Direct **T** 020 8555 1200 x

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If you feel that any such entry would disclose information about a trade secret or secret manufacturing process you may write to the Commissioner within a period of 14 days following the service of the notice, requesting exclusion of these details (see Section 4 of the 1988 Act).

SCHEDULE

PREMISES: Flats 12-21 Oyster Court, Crampton Street, London, SE17 3BW

FILE NUMBER: 91/000430

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the Commissioner's letter dated 12 February 2021.

The condition(s) specified in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, were being contravened and the following step(s) need(s) to be taken in order to comply with the above legislation:

Article	Area of Concern	Steps Considered necessary to remedy the contravention.
Article 14	At the time of the audit the emergency routes or exits were inadequate. It was found that the compartmentation and fire stopping within the riser cupboards was inadequate. The riser cupboards are located within the protected staircase and the means of escape could potentially be compromised in the event of a fire within the riser cupboards.	Ensure adequate emergency routes and exits, for use by relevant persons in the premises, are available and can be safely and effectively used at all relevant times. This can be achieved by ensuring that all breaches in compartmentation are filled with a suitable FIRE RESISTING material.
Article 8	At the time of the audit the FIRE RESISTING separation in your premises was inadequate. It was found that the fire stopping within the riser cupboards was inadequate.	Provide suitable FIRE RESISTING separation by ensuring that all breaches in compartmentation are filled with a suitable FIRE RESISTING material.

RECOMMENDATIONS NOT FORMING REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHEDULE

The Commissioner would strongly urge that you consider the presence of combustible façade cladding materials as part of the risk assessment process for these premises. All relevant information about any replacement window and facade schemes should be made fully available to fire risk assessors. Where no reliable information is available for a given property, a strategy to assess the risk and where necessary implement short, medium and long term actions to address the risk should be implemented.

Where remedial measures are to be undertaken to which consultation requirements under Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 will apply, the Commissioner would urge you to consider application of the disapplication provisions under Section 20ZA of that Act.