

Freedom of Information request reference number: 6545.1

Date of response: 31 May 2022

Request:

On Thursday 5th May two properties, Fitzgerald House and Fleming House, in St Georges Grove, SW17 0BF were subject to an inspection without forewarning. Following this, an immediate waking watch was imposed. We, the residents request a copy of the report made by LFB on both buildings and would also like to know which fire safety act has been used in this instance.

Response:

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/>

Our Fire Safety Regulatory team have confirmed that the recommendation to move to a simultaneous evacuation in Fitzgerald House and Fleming House was made by the Fire Risk Assessor appointed by the managing agents, KFH, in light of the risk posed by the cladding systems. The LFB did not impose the change in emergency strategy. KFH then employed the waking watch to support the simultaneous evacuation strategy.

The LFB conducted a fire safety audit at the premises in May 2022. The audit is still a live investigation and is not yet complete. The fire safety inspecting officer has three months to complete their audit findings. As the outcome decision of the audit has not yet been made, we are unable to share the LFB audit outcome with you.

We would welcome a further request from you to obtain the outcome details once the audit is complete. We recommend you resubmit your request again in a couple months to allow the Inspecting Officer time to complete the audit record.

The Inspecting Officer has let me know that, since this audit inspection, the managing agents for Fitzgerald House and Fleming House arranged for the removal of the majority of the cladding systems, therefore reducing the risk. After further consultation with competent persons, KFH then made the decision to revert to a stay put strategy (Fleming House on 12/05/2022 and Fitzgerald House on 19/05/2022) with the waking watch removed.

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/