

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8500.1

Date of response: 5 April 2024

Request:

I would like copies of all correspondence (emails, phone calls, whatsapp messages, etc) relating to the Fire Safety of the building between the London Fire Brigade and the Board of Directors and Managing Agent (Lee Baron Navana) for the "Port East Apartments" building between 1 Oct 2023 and 29 Feb 2024.

The context for the request is that in Oct 2023 I submitted a Fire Safety Concern report about the "Port East Apartments" building resulting in remedial actions as provided by the Managing Agent which showed overall systematic issues with the building. I would like to understand the actions the LFB took from my complaint and the subsequent result.

Response:

The LFB Fire Safety Regulatory team have provided the correspondence we hold in relation to Port East Apartments in October 2023 in relation to a concern raised in October 2023.

The correspondence is between fire safety and LB Navana in October 2023. I can confirm that an email dated 27 October 2023 mentions the resolution of the emergency lights are being resolved W/C 30th October.

The LFB freely provide the outcome of Fire Safety Audits and notices issued under freedom of information act.

Where a Fire Safety audit results in a notice being issued by the LFB, the reports themselves are exempt from release under the FOIA provisions under [Section 31 of the FOIA - law enforcement](#) (Section 31(1)(g) combined with 31(2) (a) and 31(2) (c)).

When the LFB identifies any safety concerns, we make this information available to the public by supplying copies of any informal notification of fire safety deficiencies (NOD) issued, and through access to [the public register](#) of any formal enforcement action. We clearly understand that there is public interest and concern about knowing about the fire safety of the buildings in which people live, work, or visit however we need to maintain a balance between the public interest in safety and the Brigade's ability to work with responsible persons in a safe space where honest, frank and meaningful discussions can take place.

It is important that enforcing authorities are assisted in their investigations if witnesses and those responsible for compliance with regulations are willing to cooperate with the investigation on a voluntary basis and investigators are able to take full contemporaneous notes (that are recorded on the audit forms) and enter in discussions (either verbally, or by

correspondence) with those involved to enable them to explore all aspects of the case and then arrive at a decision as to the appropriate action to take.

Other materials (including email correspondence and detailed notes), documents (such as documents provided to us by the responsible person for the building) and other fire safety information held by the Brigade are also exempt from access via the FOIA provisions. Again, 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.

I hope you find this information of use. Should you have any further questions please do let me know.

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](#).