

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 8368.1

**Date of response:** 26 February 2024

**Request:**

*We have received several complaints about unit 5, Vertex Tower at Creekside Village (SE8), but the tenant of the commercial unit stated that they have recently passed an LFB fire safety inspection. Is this something you can confirm, or provide written evidence of?*

*Please note that JFM are the management agent for the development, acting on behalf of Creekside Village West Limited.*

**Response:**

The LFB Fire Safety Regulatory team confirm that the last audit conducted on this building was in November 2020.

The result of the audit 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 the Premises on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. A copy of the notice is attached below along with the extracts and definition of standard terms that were sent to Managing Agent.

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 Enforcement Notice). 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).

Personal data has been removed under [section 40 of the FOIA –Personal Information.](#)

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](#)

The Company Secretary  
JFM Block & Estate Management LLP  
Middlesex House  
130 College Road  
Harrow  
HA1 1BQ

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

Date 7 December 2020  
Our Ref 94/195745/

Dear Sir/Madam

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

**Premises: Vertex Tower, 3 Harmony Place, Deptford, London SE8 3FE**

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 **1 March 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 web-site at [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://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](http://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 occur 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

**for Assistant Commissioner (Fire Safety)**

Directorate of Operations

[FSR-AdminSupport@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:FSR-AdminSupport@london-fire.gov.uk)

Reply to Inspecting Officer

Direct T 0208 555 1200

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** - 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.

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: Vertex Tower, 3 Harmony Place, Deptford, London SE8 3FE**

**FILE NUMBER: 94/195745**

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the Commissioner's letter dated 7 December 2020.

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:

<b>Article</b>	<b>Area of Concern</b>	<b>Steps Considered necessary to remedy the contravention.</b>
Article 11	<p>At the time of the audit your preventative and protective measures had not been planned, organised, controlled, monitored or reviewed where required. It was found that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) No review of findings of fire risk assessment significant findings not addressed.</li><li>2) No checking or maintenance of flat front doors.</li><li>3) No review of FIRE RESISTANCE of basement ancillary rooms.</li></ol>	<p>Arrangements identified as not suitably addressed must be effectively planned, organised, controlled, monitored or reviewed.</p>
Article 14	<p>At the time of the audit the emergency routes or exits were inadequate. It was found that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The 17<sup>th</sup> floor lobby door from small corridor leading onto staircase did not close fully.</li></ol>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Adjustment of the self closure on 17<sup>th</sup> floor lobby door from small corridor leading onto staircase so that door closes fully.</li></ol>

<p>Article 17</p>	<p>The corridors, lobbies and stairs used for access to and from flats in the premises (the access routes) are intended for use by relevant persons as a PROTECTED ROUTE. This route should provide a safe means of escape in event of fire and must be maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and good repair.</p> <p>During audit it was found that the responsible person for management of the access route has not prevented or addressed deficiencies in the FIRE RESISTANCE of the PROTECTED ROUTE and/or required rectification of defects that have arisen in, and/or alterations made to, the protection to the access route.</p> <p>At the time of the audit a number of flat front doors were sampled and these doors failed to close fully. Flat door numbers: 83, 43 and 38.</p>	<p>Ensure the access corridor is returned to its intended state as a PROTECTED ROUTE to afford protection from fire in a flat to relevant persons who may require use of that corridor for safe escape from the premises in case of fire. Remedial work that may be necessary for this purpose, must be assessed and completed by a competent person who is practised in application of the relevant standards for means of escape.</p> <p>Your attention is drawn to the provisions of subsections (2) (3) and (4) of Article 17 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in the attached extracts of legislation.</p> <p>You are advised that walls in PROTECTED ROUTES should have a minimum of 60 minutes FIRE RESISTANCE. Openings in the walls leading to accommodation off a PROTECTED ROUTE (including doors in entrance ways, service openings, borrowed light glazing, holes around cables trunking and pipework) should be of a minimum 30 minutes FIRE RESISTANCE.</p> <p>Available means the responsible person could use to comply with Article 17 (1) may include enforcing terms of lease and Landlord and Tenant / Property legislation as lessor/owner.</p>
<p>Article 8</p>	<p>At the time of the audit the general fire precautions as identified in the significant findings of your fire risk assessment had not been implemented. It was found that:</p> <p>1) Fire door survey and 6 monthly maintenance regime instigated for doors ( Vertex Tower) had not been completed.</p> <p>Basement areas:</p> <p>1) Hole in wall of Dancers Way bin room.</p> <p>2) Secondary power room ( -2 basement level ) has a wooden ply wood wall around the fire door entrance.</p> <p>3) Fire door survey and 6 monthly maintenance regime instigated for doors had not been completed.</p>	<p>Implement the significant findings of your fire risk assessment, in particular:</p> <p>1) Fire door survey and 6 monthly maintenance regime instigated for doors ( Vertex Tower)</p> <p>Basement areas:</p> <p>1) Hole in wall of Dancers Way bin room to be repaired to suitable FIRE RESISTANCE.</p> <p>2) Secondary power room ( -2 basement level ) to have suitable FIRE RESISTANT wall installed around the fire door entrance.</p> <p>3) Fire door survey to be completed and 6 monthly maintenance regime instigated for doors</p>

Article 8	<p>At the time of the audit the FIRE RESISTING separation in your premises was inadequate. It was found that:</p> <p>1 ) All bin room doors have fire door signage attached to them but have grills installed in the doors therefore compromising their FIRE RESISTANCE.</p>	<p>Provide suitable FIRE RESISTING separation by:</p> <p>1) Repair of bin room doors so they have suitable FIRE RESISTANCE.</p>
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**\*\*\*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.