

Appendix 3 – Letters to residents

Dear Tenant/Resident

I am writing to you following the terrible fire and events at Grenfell Tower in London last week, recognising that as tenants or residents living in a multi-storey block you will naturally have questions over the safety of your property. This letter is aimed to provide information and reassurance to you.

As you will appreciate, the investigation into the cause of the fire remains at the early stage and so the causes of the fire will not be known for some time. However, the Council wanted to write to you now, to provide information that we believe will be helpful to you. In writing to you, I can also express that the Council's thoughts are with all those people affected, their families and friends. Our thoughts are also with the emergency services, who responded to the event and continue to deal with the situation.

We continue to work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) colleagues and the Scottish Government throughout the investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire, and we shall continue to review multi-storey block fire safety, on an ongoing basis.

As part of our partnership working with the SFRS, I attach a leaflet which contains fire safety information and advice on what do in the event of a fire.

The Multi-storey Block Tenants and Residents' Committee meets next week and we shall be discussing the matter further at the meeting.

I would like to offer reassurance on some specific points:

Firstly, I can confirm that your block **does not have over-cladding**.

With regard to fire safety, all Aberdeen City Council multi-storey blocks benefit from a number of systems including fire alarms and smoke detectors that are linked to a fire alarm panel, emergency lighting in all communal landings, and exit staircases. Each multi-storey block is also equipped with a dry riser with an outlet on each floor.

Fire alarm panels and other fire safety equipment are checked on a regular basis. In addition, SFRS will undertake a fire safety inspection of each multi-storey blocks every two months.

We are committed to working with tenants and residents to ensure multi-storey block safety and we are planning a series of drop in meetings, where you will be able to come and speak to the Council and fire service staff. Once the dates and venues have been confirmed the information will be posted on our website, social media pages and in every multi-storey block.

In the meantime, if you would like any more information please contact us on 03000 200 292 or to arrange a home fire safety visit from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service officers please call 0800 0731 999.

I hope this letter has addressed some of the concerns, you may have and if you have any further concerns please do not hesitate to follow up through the contact details above.

Yours Sincerely

Derek McGowan
Head of Communities and Housing

Dear Tenant/Resident

I am writing to you following the terrible fire and events at Grenfell Tower in London last week, recognising that as tenants or residents living in a multi-storey block you will naturally have questions over the safety of your property. This letter is aimed to provide information and reassurance to you.

As you will appreciate, the investigation into the cause of the fire remains at the early stage and so the causes of the fire will not be known for some time. However, the Council wanted to write to you now, to provide information that we believe will be helpful to you. In writing to you, I can also express that the Council's thoughts are with all those people affected, their families and friends. Our thoughts are also with the emergency services, who responded to the event and continue to deal with the situation.

We continue to work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) colleagues and the Scottish Government throughout the investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire, and we shall continue to review multi-storey block fire safety, on an ongoing basis.

As part of our partnership working with the SFRS, I attach a leaflet which contains fire safety information and advice on what do in the event of a fire.

The Multi-storey Block Tenants and Residents' Committee meets next week and we shall be discussing the matter further at the meeting.

I would like to offer reassurance on some specific points:

Firstly, I can confirm that your block **does have over-cladding**.

I am aware that following the Grenfell Tower fire concerns have been raised about use of cladding on multi-storey buildings. I would like to continue to assure tenants and householders the over-cladding fitted on our multi-storey buildings is of a very high standard and is designed to be resistant to the spread of fire. While we await the result of the fire investigation in London, it should be stressed the materials used in the over-cladding of ACC multi-storey buildings is not the same as the cladding which looks to have been used at Grenfell Tower.

Over the past week Council technical officers, in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, have been checking the specification of materials used in Aberdeen blocks and can confirm that the materials and design used fully comply with all relevant building regulations and standards.

All of our over-cladding is made of the following materials:

1. Insulation made of stone fibres which is non-flammable and is hard-up against the concrete wall. It is 125mm thick and is a rigid material;
2. Solid façade sheets made of a fibreglass reinforced polymer which is resistant to the spread of fire and hinders smoke development;
3. Cavity barriers at each party floor and party wall, and around each window. These barriers enclose any fire so as to prevent the risk of it spreading from flat to flat, and prevent it spreading within the over-cladding. These cavity barriers are made of both the previously-mentioned stone fibre insulation (around the windows and at the party walls) and also intumescent seals and

steel at the party floors. The intumescent steel fire stop which, when it heats up, expands to block any fire.

With regard to fire safety, all Aberdeen City Council multi-storey blocks benefit from a number of systems including fire alarms and smoke detectors that are linked to a fire alarm panel, emergency lighting in all communal landings, and exit staircases. Each multi-storey block is also equipped with a dry riser with an outlet on each floor.

Fire alarm panels and other fire safety equipment are checked on a regular basis. In addition, SFRS will undertake a fire safety inspection of each multi-storey blocks every two months.

We are committed to working with tenants and residents to ensure multi-storey block safety and we are planning a series of drop in meetings, where you will be able to come and speak to the Council and fire service staff. Once the dates and venues have been confirmed the information will be posted on our website, social media pages and in every multi-storey block.

In the meantime, if you would like any more information please contact us on 03000 200 292 or to arrange a home fire safety visit from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service officers please call 0800 0731 999.

I hope this letter has addressed some of the concerns, you may have and if you have any further concerns please do not hesitate to follow up through the contact details above.

Yours Sincerely

Derek McGowan
Head of Communities and Housing