

FIRE SAFETY

Letter sent on 1st August 2017 by Chairmen of Tower House Groups John Tomlinson (Cromwell) and Ted Reilly (Shakespeare) to Andrew Carter* - City of London of London Director of Community and Children's Services.

See also their attachment.

They are asking for meeting with Mr Carter and for a comprehensive risk assessment, to include fire and other risks.

*Information about Andrew Carter 21 Feb 2017

"The City of London Corporation has appointed Andrew Carter as its next Director of Community and Children's Services. Andrew is currently the Head of Children's Social Care at Thurrock Council in Essex. He has over 20 years of experience across children's and families social work having obtained a Masters in Social Work from the University of Sussex in 1994. Andrew is passionate about building strong communities and has a proven track record of service improvement. Mr Carter's remit will involve managing the provision of the City Corporation's Community & Children's Services department in a number of areas including housing adult social care and support, education, family and children's services. <http://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/city-of-london-corporation-appoints-new-director-of-community-and-childrens-services>"

Begin forwarded message:

From: john tomlinson <john@johnandpaula.com>

Subject: Fire Risk Assessment

Date: 1 August 2017 at 12:24:49 BST

To: Andrew Carter <andrew.carter@cityoflondon.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Carter

This is a joint letter from the chairmen of the Shakespeare and Cromwell Tower house groups.

We are aware that City officers are under enormous pressure to address the fire risk concerns of residents across the City's housing stock. We also recognise that we are fortunate to live in flats that are inherently resistant to fire risk through the materials used in their construction, the compartmentalisation of the building and our multiple escape routes.

However we are concerned about the future direction that the City might take in mitigating our fire risks.

We are concerned that the Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) that were recently published were disappointing in their scope, competence and detail.

We are concerned that the City might not have adequate human resources to manage the review of the safety of our buildings in a timely manner.

We are concerned that the City appears to be investigating piecemeal solutions to fire risks, like sprinkler systems and enhanced fire doors. These could form a part of a solution set used in the reduction of our risks but they should result from and not drive any risk mitigation process.

We would like to see a one-time systems based, complete, top-to-bottom, inside-out review of buildings and how they respond to the people that inhabit them.

We have attached a note which details our concerns and makes suggestions as to the shape that this review might take

We would like to meet you urgently to discuss this.

Kind regards

John Tomlinson and Ted Reilly

Appendix:

Future Review

We would be very concerned if the City were considering reactive piecemeal solutions to fire risks, like sprinkler systems and enhanced fire doors. These could form a part of a solution set used in the reduction of our risks but they should result from and not drive any risk mitigation process.

We therefore seek a fundamental, considered, one-time analysis. We would propose as a minimum that the Risk Assessment package (the omission of the word “fire” is intentional) should:

- Be system based i.e. in addition to the buildings it should address the people that inhabit the building and their interaction with the building.
- Be a top-down holistic review not a piecemeal determination of the appropriateness of different solutions to specific issues.
- Use an appropriate risk analysis technique like Failure Mode Effects and Criticality analysis, which comprehensively identifies modes of failure (risks), their potential impacts (effects) and assesses the severity of occurrence (criticality) to determine the overall risk profile and assess appropriate risk mitigation actions.

The analysis should be comprehensive and include (but not be limited to)

- An analysis of the building plans of Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, which we understand incorporated a high level of fire safety integrity
- The fire risk resulting from the materials used in the as-built construction and in subsequent retrofitting
- An assessment of modes of fire migration within a floor and between floors; and methods of reducing any significant risks
- Adequacy of the prescribed means of escape and an assessment of the present state of such means
- Adequacy of the means provided for fighting any fire and an assessment of the present state of such means
- Whether the potentially pervious nature of current tower security constitutes a significant risk of arson/ terrorism at an iconic London landmark
- The fire risks to a tower from a fire within an under- tower car park, or connected building/ equipment e.g. Barbican Centre diesel generators and their oil storage tanks and the major electricity substation.
- Not be limited to fire risk; there are associated total building risks like the need to evacuate the building for non-fire risks that need to be analysed.

JT/TR. 1/8/2017