# Fire Risk Assessment Harry Price House

# Hartlebury Rd, Oldbury, B69 1EQ



**Date Completed:** 05/06/2024.

Review Period: 12 months

Officer: C. Hill Fire Risk Assessor

Checked By: J Blewitt Team Lead Fire Safety & Facilities



**Current Risk Rating = Tolerable** 

### **Subsequent reviews**

Review date	Officer	Comments

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#### Introduction

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RR(FS)O) places a legal duty on landlords to complete a fire risk assessment (FRA). Specifically, RR(FS)O article 9. — (1) "The responsible person must make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to which relevant persons are exposed for the purpose of identifying the general fire precautions he needs to take to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed on him by or under this Order".

This fire risk assessment has been written to comply fully with the above legislation which is enforced locally by West Midlands Fire Service. If required, complaints can be made to them by telephone on 0121 380 7500 or electronically on <a href="https://www.wmfs.net/our-services/fire-safety/#reportfiresafety">https://www.safety/#reportfiresafety</a>. In the first instance however, we would be grateful if you could contact us directly via <a href="https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact\_the\_council/283/feedback\_and\_complaints">https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact\_the\_council/283/feedback\_and\_complaints</a> or by phone on 0121 569 6000.

The date of the fire risk assessment is on the front page, followed by any subsequent reviews. A recurring time frame is not set in legislation, but the Council will as a minimum review:

- High Risk Residential Buildings annually
- Other Buildings every 3 years

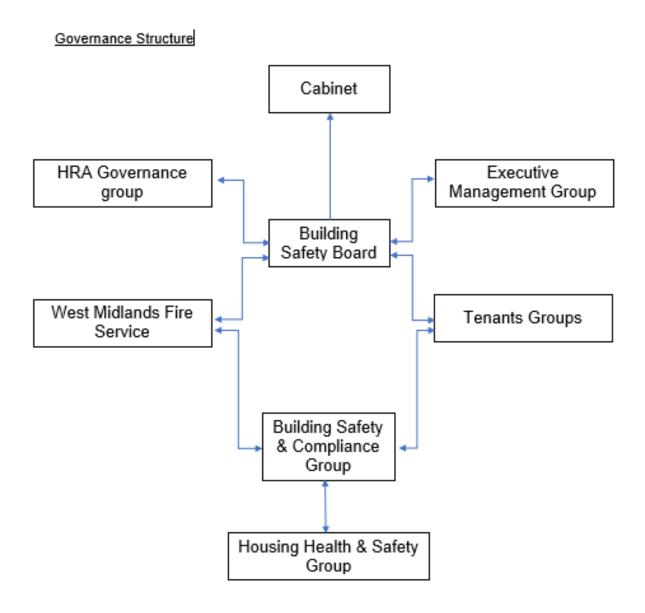
The council has procedures and policies in place that will trigger a review of the fire risk assessment. This then is recorded on the fire risk assessment. If the review suggests the fire risk assessment is not currently suitable and sufficient, then a new fire risk assessment will be undertaken and become the current fire risk assessment. The previous fire risk assessment will be retained in the building safety case for that building.

The following diagrams illustrate those procedures and persons that support the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures. This information is provided as required under the RR(FS)O.



The above processes and procedures are overseen by the Fire Safety, Manager who reports to the Head of Building Safety

These managers attend the Building Safety and Compliance Group for scrutiny which is part of the governance structure below.



To summarise the fire risk assessment, in this scenario the RR(FS)O requires the prescribed information to be recorded. The prescribed information is the significant findings of the fire risk assessment and those groups or persons especially at risk from fire. This is recorded here in <a href="section 1">section 1</a>. Also required to be recorded under article 11, are the fire safety arrangements for the planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventative and protective measures. The information shown above is part of this requirement.

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### Significant findings

The significant findings (executive summary) of the fire risk assessment include those measures that have been or will be undertaken by the responsible person in order to comply with the RR(FS)O 2005. Groups of people especially at risk of fire include such people as remote or lone workers, at risk due to layout of the building, visitors and contractors unfamiliar with the building layout as well as those with physical, sensory or mental health issues.

A third requirement that under the order must be recorded is the fire safety arrangements. This is the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures. These are shown in the introduction.

#### Significant findings

Include a brief summary of protective and preventative measures where relevant along with any issues found;

The escape strategy is 'Stay Put Unless'. This means in the event of a fire in your flat you should evacuate. If there is a fire elsewhere in the building you should stay put unless you are affected by fire, smoke or you have been advised by the emergency services to leave.

Section number	Section Area	Individual Risk Level
Section 6	External Envelope	Tolerable
	Brickwork up to 1 <sup>st</sup> floor – Ibstock Rocksheild brick slips. Above 1 <sup>st</sup> floor mixture of insulated Alsecco mineral wool render (Fire Classification A2) and high density Stonewool Panels by Rockwool (Fire Classification A1).	
	2 x flats have installed screening to balcony.	
	1 x flat has installed a plastic greenhouse to balcony.	

Section 7	Means of Escape from Fire	Tolerable
	There is a single protected staircase that provides a sufficient means of escape.	
	AOVs are present on all floors above aground floor.	
	Bicycles & shoes in communal corridor on 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor.	
	Toys & cot in communal corridor on 1st floor	
	Flat 25 requires self-closing device on entrance door.	
	Flat 44 require adjustment to self-closer.	
Section 8	Fire Detection and Alarm Systems	Tolerable
	Fire detection within flats is installed to LD2 standard.	
	A fire suppression system is provided to the bin store.	
	Confirmation required of sufficient testing to server room fire alarm system.	
Section 9	Emergency Lighting	Trivial
	The premises have a sufficient central fed supply emergency lighting system.	
Section 10	Compartmentation	Tolerable
	The building is designed to provide as a minimum 1-hour vertical fire resistance and 1-hour horizontal fire resistance around flats stairwells and lift shafts.	

Communal & flat entrance doors are 30-minute fire doors with intumescent strips & cold smoke seals, including those in 1-hour rated walls.	
No intumescent strips to server room fire door.	
Fire Fighting Equipment	Trivial
There is a fire hydrant adjacent the front main entrance.	
The dry riser inlet is located in the main entrance foyer.	
The dry riser serves all floors above ground.	
There is a C02 fire extinguisher within the lift motor room and server room.	
There is a fire suppression system in the bin store.	
Maintenance contracts are in place to service the dry riser, chute closure plate & suppression system twice yearly and the fire extinguishers annually.	
Fire Signage	Trivial
Sufficient signage is displayed throughout the building.	
Employee Training	Trivial
All staff receive basic fire safety awareness training.	
Sources of Ignition	Tolerable
The fixed electric tests should be done every 5 years. Confirmation required that the last inspection was within 5 years.	
	minute fire doors with intumescent strips & cold smoke seals, including those in 1-hour rated walls.  No intumescent strips to server room fire door.  Fire Fighting Equipment  There is a fire hydrant adjacent the front main entrance.  The dry riser inlet is located in the main entrance foyer.  The dry riser serves all floors above ground.  There is a C02 fire extinguisher within the lift motor room and server room.  There is a fire suppression system in the bin store.  Maintenance contracts are in place to service the dry riser, chute closure plate & suppression system twice yearly and the fire extinguishers annually.  Fire Signage  Sufficient signage is displayed throughout the building.  Employee Training  All staff receive basic fire safety awareness training.  Sources of Ignition  The fixed electric tests should be done every 5 years. Confirmation required that the last

Section 15	Waste Control	Trivial
	Regular checks by Caretakers minimise risk of waste accumulation.	
	Refuse containers are secured within the bin store at lower ground level.	
Section 16	Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors	Trivial
	Contractors are controlled centrally, and hot works permits are required where necessary.	
Section 17	Arson Prevention	Trivial
	A door entry system prevents unauthorised access.	
	Perimeter lighting is in place.	
	CCTV is in operation.	
Section 18	Storage Arrangements	Trivial
	There is a caretaker's store located on the ground floor.	
	Residents instructed not to bring L.P.G cylinders into block.	

#### **Risk Level Indicator**

High

The following simple risk level estimator is based on commonly used risk level estimator:

	Potential consequences of fire		
Likelihood of fire	Slight harm	Moderate harm	Extreme harm
Low	Trivial risk	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk
Medium	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk	Substantial risk
High	Moderate risk	Substantial risk	Intolerable risk

Considering the fire prevention measures observed at the time of this risk assessment, it is considered that the hazard from fire (likelihood of fire) at these premises is:

Low ☐ Medium ⊠	High □
In this context, a definition of	the above terms is as follows:
Low	Unusually low likelihood of fire because of negligible potential sources of ignition.
Medium	Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).

in likelihood of fire.

Lack of adequate controls applied to

one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase

fire protection and procedura	e premises and the occupants, as well as the all arrangements observed at the time of this asidered that the consequences for life safety
Slight Harm ⊠ Moderate	e Harm □ Extreme Harm □
In this context, a definition of	f the above terms is as follows:
Slight harm	Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant (other than an occupant sleeping in a room in which a fire occurs).
Moderate harm	Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.
Extreme harm	Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.
Accordingly, it is considered is:	that the risk to life from fire at these premises
Trivial □ Tolerable ⊠ Mo	oderate   Substantial  Intolerable

#### Comments

In conclusion, the likelihood of a fire is at a medium level of risk prior to the implementation of the action plan because of the potential fire hazards that have been highlighted within the risk assessment, including the addition of a plastic greenhouse and combustible screening to some balconies, personal items stored in the means of escape on two floors and the EICR to the communal supply may now be overdue.

After considering the use of the premise and the occupants within the block, the consequences for life safety in the event of a fire would be slight harm. This is due to there being sufficient compartmentation to include nominal FD30s doors to flat entrances & communal corridors / landings, alongside suitable smoke detection to a minimum of LD3 standard within flats and a Stay Put – Unless policy.

Overall, the level of risk at the time of this FRA is tolerable, this will be lowered to trivial once recommended actions have been completed.

A suitable risk-based control plan should involve effort and urgency that is proportional to risk. The following risk- based control plan is based on one that has been advocated for general health and safety risks:

Risk level	Action and timescale
Trivial	No action is required, and no detailed records need to be kept.
Tolerable	No major additional fire precautions required. However, there might be a need for reasonably practicable improvements that involve minor or limited cost.
Moderate	It is essential that efforts are made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures, which should take cost into account, should be implemented within a defined time period. Where moderate risk is associated with consequences that constitute extreme harm, further assessment might be required to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the priority for improved control measures.
Substantial	Considerable resources might have to be allocated to reduce the risk. If the premises are unoccupied, it should not be occupied until the risk has been reduced. If the premises are occupied, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Premises (or relevant area) should not be occupied until the risk is reduced.

(Note that, although the purpose of this section is to place the fire risk in context, the above approach to fire risk assessment is subjective and for guidance only. All hazards and deficiencies identified in this report should be addressed by implementing all recommendations contained in the following action plan. The fire risk assessment should be reviewed regularly.)

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# **People at Significant Risk of Fire**

Persons at significant risk of fire does not just refer to those people with physical, sensory or mental health issues. It also includes those at risk due to the layout or features of the building such as inner rooms or dead-end conditions. Persons may also be at risk due to remote or lone working.

The RR(FS)O requires that these people are identified in any fire risk assessment.

Sandwell Council takes the health, safety and wellbeing of its colleagues, contractors, residents and leaseholders seriously. It is our policy to exceed, where possible, the minimum health and safety requirements of the law.

Residents are responsible for letting us know whether they might need a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP). The Resident Engagement Officers (Fire Safety) will conduct an assessment visit upon request. Any risk-reduction measures that are found where a PEEP is necessary and completed will be documented and taken quickly. With the consent of the resident, we will make a referral for West Midlands Fire Service to conduct a Safe and Well visit.

When a PEEP is in place, the relevant information will be kept in the secure Premise Information Box (High Rise Buildings only), which is set up to help WMFS in an emergency. The data is classified as level 1, which means it complies with the General Data Protection Regulations.

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#### **Contact Details**

The Chief Executive of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has ultimate responsibility for the site as the responsible person identified by the RR(FS)O 2005.

The Chief Executive has put a structure in place to support the management of the site.

This includes the role of Building Safety Manager who has duties as defined within the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The contact names to support the management of the site are as follows:

#### **Chief Executive**

Shokat Lal

#### **Executive Director of Place**

Alan Lunt

#### **Assistant Director Building Compliance**

Phil Deery

#### **Fire Safety Manager**

Tony Thompson

#### **Team Lead Fire Safety**

Jason Blewitt

#### Fire Risk Assessor(s)

Carl Hill

**Louis Conway** 

**Anthony Smith** 

Adrian Jones

#### Resident Engagement Officer - Fire Safety

Lee Mlilo

Abdul Monim Khan

#### **Housing Office Manager**

Rachel Price

Please note, the above details are correct at the time of the production of the risk assessment and may be subject to change

### **Description of Premises**

Harry Price House

#### **Description of the Property**

This high-rise block was designed & constructed in approximately 1961 for general needs housing, utilising a concrete frame with Wimpey no fines / brick infill along with a flat roof construction. A steel framed pitched roof with aluminium standing seam PIR/PUR boards was added during 2018 refurbishment works.





The block consists of 13 storeys (inclusive of the ground floor). The ground floor has a total of five number dwellings all of which are incomplete and unoccupied. Each of the floors from the first to 11<sup>th</sup> floors contain 6 number dwellings (3 each side). The 12<sup>th</sup> floor has 2 number dwellings and access to the roof. The total number of dwellings is 68 not including the 5 incomplete flats.





There is a single staircase which provides a sufficient means of escape.



The block has a main entrance/exit to the front and a further two entrances / exits located on the rear elevation which includes one from the stairwell.









Each entrance is accessed using a door entry system with a fob reader. Additionally, there is a firefighter override switch to the front entrance only that is operated by use of a drop latch key.





There are two lift cars both of which serve alternate floors, but travel is limited to floor 11. The 12<sup>th</sup> floor is accessed via the internal staircase. The capacity for each lift is 8 persons or 600kg.



There is a Caretakers / Cleaners Welfare Office and general storage room located on the ground floor; access is obtained utilising the suited 54 lock key.









There's a server room which is accessed internally from the caretaker's welfare room. Access is gained to the room via the Fire Control switch or by contacting the concierge. The server room has its own fire alarm panel / system.







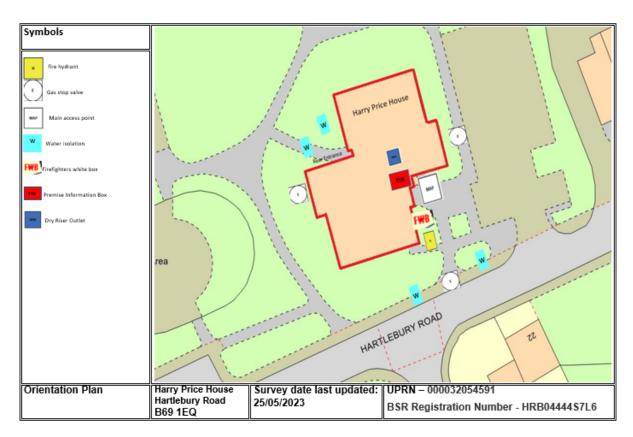


The incoming electrical supply and battery system for the emergency lighting are housed in a service cupboard accessed externally left of the main entrance to the building.





#### On arrival Information (for WMFS)



There is a firefighter's white box externally to the left-hand side of the main entrance to the front of the building. The box contains all keys for the building and is secured with a bridge-door padlock.



Access to the building is gained via the firefighter's door override switch utilising the drop latch key from the white box.



There is a Secure Premise Information Box (PIB) located in the ground floor front entrance lobby. It is a Gerda box that utilises a standard WMFS suited key held on each fire appliance. The PIB contains floor plans, vertical plans, orientation plans, information for WMFS and a plan to indicate the location of those with vulnerabilities who may require additional consideration if there is a fire incident (PEEP).



The fire hydrant is left of the main entrance in the grass.





There is a dry riser system at Harry Price House. The riser inlet is to the right-hand side in the main entrance foyer and is secured with a fire service bridge door padlock.





Dry riser outlets are available on each floor above ground opposite the stairwell door / in lift the lobby. The outlets are contained within a dry riser cupboard that is secured with a type 54 suited mortice lock.





The bin store is located to the side of the main entrance and is installed with a fire suppression system & automatic closer plate.







Automatic Opening Vents (AOV) have been installed to the head of protected staircase and in each corridor above the ground floor. The status panel is in the entrance foyer whilst override controls are in a service cupboard on each floor above ground.









There is a firefighter's lift override switch for each lift between the ground floor lift cars. This is operated by the drop latch key.





The lift motor room is accessed via a full height door on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. The key is contained in the firefighters white box.





Access to the roof void is gained on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor (from either wing) via a full height timber door secured with a suited 54 mortice lock.







There are access panels in each void (secured with tower bolts) in the glazed section of the roof loft cladding to facilitate access to the abseil points.



The roof void adjacent the lift motor room has a solar PV system installed. The PV panels are directly above on the outer roof.





The void adjacent to the lift motor room facilitates access via a looped ladder up to the elevated upper roof void. Access is restricted by a further timber door secured with a suited 54 mortice lock.





Address: Harry Price House Hartlebury Road B69 1EQ	Survey date: 25/05/2023	ON ARRIVAL INFORMATION	
BUILDING LAYOUT			
Size: Height	32.2 metres – 13 Storeys		
Construction	Insitu concrete frame with Wimpey no fines concrete / brick infill. Brickwork to the 1" floor (libstock Rockshield Brick Slips). Above 1" floor there is a mixture of insulated Alsecco mineral wool render (fire classification A2) and high density Stonewool Panels by Rockwool (fire classification A1).		
Number of floors	13 floors		
Layout	The block consists of 13 storeys (inclusive of the ground floor). Each of the floors from the 1st to 11 <sup>th</sup> floors inclusive contain 6 number dwellings (3 each side). The 12 <sup>th</sup> floor has 2 number dwellings and provides access to the roof. Roof void is accessed via full height timber doors on the 12 <sup>th</sup> floor. The ground floor consists of an entrance lobby, lift lobby, voids, and caretaker areas. The ground floor has a total of five number dwellings all of which are incomplete and unoccupied. The block has 3 entrance/exits. Main access point at the front elevation and a further 2 access point at the rear of the block. Main access point has a drop latch system granting access to the building. Server room that is accessed externally from the side elevation of the block. 2 lifts and 1 staircase serves the building. The lifts serve alternate floors serving till the 11 <sup>th</sup> floor and the staircase serves all floors. Stairwell is of concrete construction and is protected with good compartmentation provided. The block is split in the middle via the lift lobby areas with 3 flats to the left and right-hand sides of the lobby compartmented via a F0305 timber door.		
Lifts	Zifts serve alternate floors. Both lifts can be acc located on the ground floor.	sessed from the ground floor lift lobby. Lift override switch	
Types of entrance doors	Flat doors are predominantly FD30s composite d	loors sets with the exception of some timber flush FD30s doors.	
Rubbish chutes/ bin rooms	ventilation system.	nd with natural ventilation coming by means of louver vents and	
Common voids	Kes in roof accessed from 12 <sup>th</sup> floor.		
Access to roof/ service rooms	Access to roof is via full height timber doors secured with suited 54 lock on the 12th floor leading out on to the roof. The roof is split into two halves with a separate door to each. The upper roof can be accessed via the vertical looped ladder and through full height timber door secured with a suited 54 mortice lock The lift motor room is located on the 12th floor; access is obtained via a full height door (secured with a suited mortice lock) from the communal landing.		
Occupants	Approx. 132 based on an average of 2 occupants	per flats (68 flats)	
Evacuation strategy		Unless'. This means in the event of a fire in your flat you should ng, you should stay put unless you are affected by fire or smoke	
Fire alarm/ evacuation alarm	The building consisting of early warning limited to resident's flats.	to hard wire or battery smoke alarms within each of the	
Caretaker/ concierge	Caretaking/cleaning service that conducts regula	er checks of the building	
FIREFIGHTING SYSTEMS			
Water supplies	Fire hydrant is located at the main entry/ exit to the building, fire hydrant / water isolation points located on the orientation plan, there is a dry riser that serves the building outlet located on the floor plans provided.		
Fire mains	The dry riser inlet (twin valve) is located on the ground floor of the block and can be located on the floor plans.		
Firefighting shafts		o lifts serving adjacent floors of the block that can be controlled.	
Smoke control vents	Automatic smoke ventilation is employed with the controls to each smoke vent located in the service cupboards on each floor. With a repeater panel on the ground floor showing the status of each vent and a master control switch located adjacent this.		
Sprinkler system	A drenching system is provided to the refuse chute bin store.		
DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES			
Location, type, and quantity	LIFT MOTOR ROOM \$90mm DIA PIPE - CEMENT - SEALED - PRESUMED - CHRYSOTILE		
SERVICES	SERVICES		
Electricity	Server room that is accessed externally from the side elevation of the block, service cupboards located on each floor of the block. Solar PV system in roof void.		
Gas	Gas service risers are external to the building. Isolation points can be located via the orientation plan.		

The communal, any workplace areas and the external envelope of the building are subject to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 as confirmed by the Fire Safety Act 2021.

The enforcing authority is West Midlands Fire Service

High/Low Rise	High
Number of Floors	13
Date of Construction	1961
Construction Type	Concrete frame, Wimpey no fines
	/ brick infill.
Last Refurbished	2018/19
External Cladding	Brickwork up to 1 <sup>st</sup> floor – Ibstock
	Rocksheild brick slips
	Above 1st floor mixture of
	insulated Alsecco mineral wool
	render (Fire Classification A2) and
	high density Stonewool Panels by
	Rockwool (Fire Classification A1),
	Balcony balustrades are also
	Rockwool Stonewool panels.
Number of Lifts	2
Number of Staircases	1
Automatic Smoke Ventilation to	Yes
communal area	
Fire Alarm System	Server room only.
Refuse Chute	Yes
Access to Roof	Access to roof is via full height
	timber doors on the 12 <sup>th</sup> floor
	leading on to the lower roof voids.
	The roof is split into two halves
	with a separate door to each. The
	upper roof can be accessed via
	the vertical looped ladder and
	through full height timber door.
Equipment on roof (e.g. mobile	Solar PV panels
phone station etc)	

#### **Persons at Risk**

Residents / Occupants of 68 flats (5 flats to ground floor are incomplete / unoccupied),

Visitors,

Sandwell MBC employees,

Contractors,

Service providers (e.g. meter readers, delivery people etc)

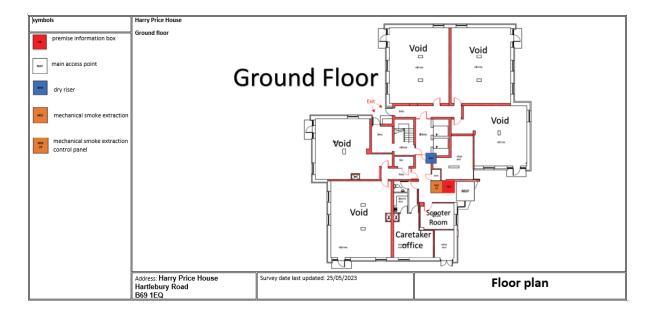
Statutory bodies (e.g. W.M.F.S, Police, and Ambulance)

# **Building Plan**

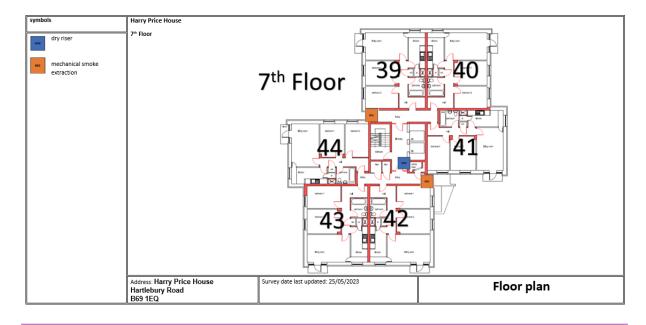
A typical floor layout showing horizontal lines of compartmentation, lift shafts, dry riser installation and AOVs etc.

The plans have been shared with WMFS electronically via their portal.

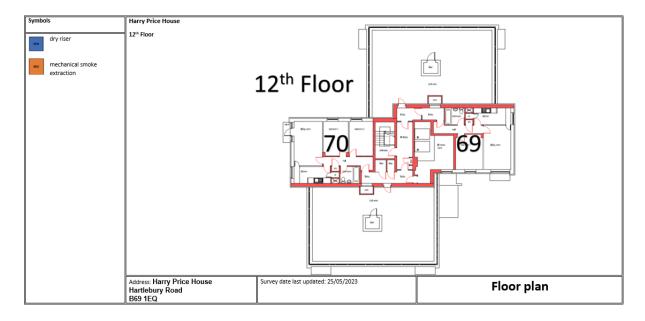
#### **Ground Floor**

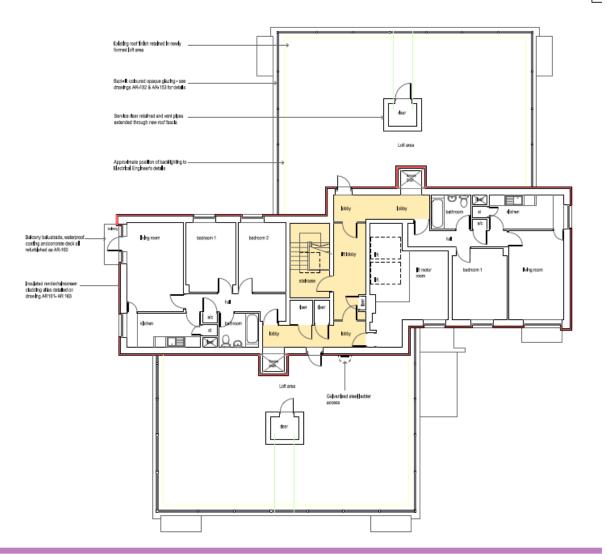


#### **Typical Upper Floor**



#### Twelfth Floor





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### **External envelope**

Following the introduction of the Fire Safety Act 2021, consideration needs to be given to the external envelope of the building for any fire risk. This predominantly means the external wall construction including any insulation filler. It also includes balconies and any other fixtures as well as doors and windows.

Details of the known external wall construction have been provided to the fire service via the WMFS portal in line with fire safety regulations 2022.

However, SMBC are currently procuring the services of a suitable contractor to conduct an intrusive external wall survey of the building.

Should the survey identify any materials that weren't previously known then WMFS should be informed via their portal.

Below is a breakdown of the materials believed to be used within the external envelope and, as part of the external wall system. This is based on the information available at the time of this FRA, including recent email confirmation from the contactor who completed the 2018 refurbishment works, which confirms that the same product as the main rainscreen cladding (Rockwool Stonewool Panels) was used to construct the balcony balustrades.

The combination of the materials to the external wall system (listed below) that were installed during the 2018 refurbishment of the building in conjunction with a non-combustible mineral wool insulation present an acceptable level of fire risk.

However, the presence of screening to 2 x balconies and a plastic greenhouse that's been erected on another present an unnecessary risk and therefore should be removed.



- Harry Price House has three separate areas of cladding consisting of;
  - Ibstock Brick-slips up to 1<sup>st</sup> floor level.
  - Alsecco EWI Mineral Wool Render (Class A2)
  - High Density Stone Wool Panels (Class A1) including to balconies.
- 2) The steel framed pitched roof with aluminium standing seem PIR/PUR core panels was constructed over the original flat roof during the 2018/19 refurbishment works.



3) Windows & balcony doors to flats are double glazed powder coated aluminium externally and timber internally. Communal windows are double glazed powder coated aluminium.



4) Each flat within the block has access to an individual balcony. The balconies are constructed utilising a cantilevered concrete with steel and high density Stonewool Panels.



5) Flat 7 / 1<sup>st</sup> floor – plastic greenhouse on balcony has the potential to support the external spread of flame.



6) Flat 63 / 11<sup>th</sup> floor – Installed screening to balcony has the potential to support the surface spread of flame.



7) Flat 4 / 1<sup>st</sup> floor – Installed bamboo screening to balcony has the potential to support the surface spread of flame.



# **Means of Escape from Fire**

1) The site has a protected staircases that provides a sufficient means of escape which is 1020mm in width from balustrade to wall.



2) All corridors are of adequate width (at least 1050mm) and will be maintained clear to that width as a minimum.



- 3) None of the corridors that form part of the means of escape are dead ends.
- 4) The means of escape are protected to prevent the spread of fire and smoke.
- 5) The communal landing / staircase is protected by use of nominal FD30s timber fire doors with vision panels.



- 6) All communal doors are fitted with automatic closing devices that are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking Teams as part of their checks. Defective closing devices are replaced either by the Caretaking Team(s) or the in-house repairs team(s).
- 7) All communal fire doors are subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 8) The final exit door has a door entry system installed. These systems are designed to fail safe i.e. door unlocked in the event of a power failure. This prevents residents being locked in or out of the building.



- 9) Automatic smoke ventilation is employed. This is tested, inspected and maintained by a competent procured contractor in accordance with BS7346. The frequency for the maintenance checks are twice per year (April and October) of each calendar year. Communal windows can only be opened by operating the automatic smoke yents.
- 10) Automatic opening vents have been installed to the head of protected staircase and in each corridor above the ground floor. It was noted that the opening vents in the 12<sup>th</sup> floor corridors are of a different design to other corridors within the building.







11) There is a repeater panel located on the wall of the ground floor lobby that provides the status of the system.



12) The manual override and master reset for the entire system is located next to the repeater panel.



13) Individual override / reset controls for each corridor AOV are located in service cupboards on each floor (single door secured with a 54 lock). It should be noted that the system installed is fully automated and each vent is independently controlled by a localised smoke detector. Once smoke has cleared the system will automatically reset.





- 14) Communal areas are kept free of flammable items. The communal areas are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking / Cleaning teams 365 days per year and all items of rubbish are immediately removed. There is also an out of hour's service that allows combustible items of furniture / rubbish to be removed.
  - a) 8<sup>th</sup> floor flat 46 Combustible decorative wreath on door and shoes in the means of escape.



b)  $2^{nd}$  floor near flats 9,10,11 – 2 x bicycles and pairs of shoes in the means of escape.





c) 1<sup>st</sup> floor near flats 3, 4, 5 – Childs' ride on toys x 2 and babies cot in the means of escape.



Good housekeeping is fundamental to reducing risk in blocks of flats. Controlling the presence of combustible materials and ignition sources not only reduces the potential for accidental fires to start and develop in the common parts, it also significantly reduces the scope for deliberate fires. It also ensures escape routes are free of obstructions that might hinder the evacuation of people from the building and access for fire-fighters.

15) Individual floor mats were noted outside some flats. Fire rating of the mats is unknown but deemed to be of low risk.



16) Emergency lighting is provided to communal landings and stairs. Checks are done on a monthly basis by Sandwell MBC in house electrical team or approved contractor.



17) The building has sufficient passive controls that provide effective compartmentation in order to support a Stay Put-Unless Policy. Therefore, residents are advised to remain in their flat unless the fire directly affects them, or they are asked to leave by the emergency services.



- 18) Individual flat doors are nominal FD30s composite fire door sets with intumescent strips, cold smoke seals and self-closing devices. Flats 25, 56, 64 & 66 were noted as timber flush fire doors.
- 19) Access is gained to a sample of properties as part of the fire risk assessment to ensure the doors have not been tampered with by residents etc. Despite best endeavours it was not possible to access more than three flats during the FRA.
  - a) Flat 25 Entrance door is a timber 30 minute fire door with combined intumescent strips / cold smoke seals however, the door hasn't been fitted with a self-closing device.





b) Flat 7 – Door was correct.



c) Flat 44 – The door fails to positively engage the latch when self-closing.



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## **Fire Detection and Alarm Systems**

- Early warning within flats is limited to hard wire or battery smoke alarms. The equipment is subjected to a cyclical test.
- 2) Based on the sample of properties accessed during the fire risk assessment the smoke alarms within resident's flats are installed to an LD2 Standard.

Flats sampled were 7, 25, 44.

LD1 all rooms except wet rooms LD2 all-risk rooms e.g. Living Room, Kitchens and Hallway. LD3 Hallway only

- 3) There is no effective means for detecting an outbreak of fire to communal corridors, lobbies, landings and stairs. The reason for this are:
  - I. Such systems may get vandalised.
  - II. False alarms would occur.
  - III. A Stay Put Unless policy is in place.
- 4) Smoke detectors linked to the Automatic Opening Vents have been installed to the common parts of the building. The vents will automatically open when smoke has been detected.



5) The server room is equipped with an automatic fire alarm system. The system protects the server room only and incorporates smoke detection and a break glass call point. The system sounds locally only however, there's a separate room temperature monitoring system that is remotely monitored and therefore will raise the alarm in the event of a fire. Evidence of routine testing and maintenance of the fire alarm system wasn't evident.







6) Server room temperature monitoring system.



7) A fire suppression system is provided to the refuse chute bin store. An approved contractor maintains the systems. The frequency for the maintenance checks are twice per year (April and October) of each calendar year.





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## **Emergency Lighting**

- 1) The premises has a sufficient emergency / escape lighting system in accordance with BS 5266 and has test points strategically located.
- 2) The units are provided throughout the common parts of the building including those areas not accessible to the residents such as the lift motor room and roof voids. Emergency power is supplied by a central battery system which is located within the service cupboard housing the incoming electrical supply. The cupboard is accessed externally and is left of the main entrance.



3) All installed equipment is checked and tested on a monthly basis by Sandwell MBC in house electrical team or approved contractor, in accordance with current standards.



## Compartmentation

This section should be read in conjunction with Section 4

- 1) The building is designed to provide as a minimum 1-hour vertical fire resistance and 1-hour horizontal fire resistance around flats stairwells and lift shafts. All doors are a minimum 30-minute fire resistant with intumescent strips & cold smoke seals, including those in 1-hour rated walls.
- 2) The premise has sufficient compartmentation to limit the travel and effect of smoke and flame in event of a fire. Whilst the existing fire stopping is fit for purpose, there is a cyclical programme to ensure fire stopping as not been compromised by third parties and where applicable enhance the fire stopping.
- 3) All communal doors are fitted with automatic closing devices that are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking Teams as part of their checks. Defective closing devices are replaced either by the Caretaking Team(s) or the in-house repairs team(s).
- 4) All communal fire doors are subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 5) All service cupboards to communal corridors are nominal timber FD60s, locked with suited keys. It was noted that cabling is run through metal trunking protected by intumescent pads or pillows.





6) The door to the server room is a 54mm 60 minute fire door but requires combined intumescent / cold smoke seals.



 A variety of methods / materials have been used to achieve firestopping including Rockwool, fire rated sponge and Supalux boards.





- 8) The fire stopping / compartmentation is subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 9) Any remedial works arising from the fire stopping / compartmentation check(s) will be actioned immediately by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 10) Individual flat doors are predominantly nominal FD30s composite fire door sets manufactured by IG doors. Flats 25, 56, 64 & 66 were noted as timber flush fire doors. Flat 25 was accessed and an action (section 7) has been created to install a self-closing device.





11) The communal corridor and staircase doors are nominal FD30s timber fire doors with vision panels.



12) All cupboard doors to the dry riser, roof voids & cleaner's / caretakers rooms & cupboards are nominal 44mm timber FD30s fire doors.



13) Doors to chute rooms are nominal FD30s with vision panels and ventilation grill with intumescent baffle.



14) Refuse hoppers on all floors are Dartford Metalcrafts type LC conforming to BS1703: 2005 with 4 ¼ hours fire rating to BS476 part 22 and smoke containment to BS476 part 31.1. The hoppers were installed 23/02/23.



15) Access panels to stop taps are fixed to walls via timber rebate strips and found outside the flats of every floor.



## Fire Fighting Equipment

 The riser inlet is located within the ground floor lobby, inside a dry riser cabinet and is secured with a firefighter's suited bridge door padlock.



2) The Dry riser outlets are available in cupboards on each floor above ground adjacent the stairwell door. The cupboards are secured with a suited type 54 key mortice lock.



- 3) The dry riser is checked regularly as part of the Caretakers duties.
- 4) Maintenance contracts in place to service the valves twice per year (April and October) with a hydraulic test undertaken annually (October) to comply with the requirements of BS9990.
- 5) Portable fire extinguisher (CO2) is provided to the lift motor room & server room. Maintenance contracts in place for maintenance of the extinguisher. The frequency for the maintenance checks are once (October) of each calendar year.





6) The bin store is protected by fire suppression system and serviced 6- monthly.





7) There's an automatic closure plate installed to the refuse chute. The system can also be manually operated and is serviced 6-monthly.



## Fire Signage

1) All fire doors and dry riser outlets display appropriate signage.



2) Fire Action Notices are displayed throughout the building.



3) Yellow LPG warning signs are displayed within the lift car.



4) Signage depicting the floor location of each flat is fitted to the ground floor lobby wall.



5) Photoluminescent wayfinding signage depicting floor level and flat numbers are fitted to the walls on all floors adjacent the lift car's and to the wall of each landing on the communal staircase. Signage that meets the requirement of ADB and Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022



6) Directional fire escape signage has been installed throughout the building.



# **Employee & Resident Training/Provision of Information**

- 1) All Caretaking / Cleaning Employees have undertaken fire safety training. This includes use of bespoke 'Fire Safety in High / Low Rise Flatted Accommodation' Video.
- 2) All employees are encouraged to complete 'In the line of fire' training on an annual basis.
- Caretaking Teams are not currently trained in the effective use of fire extinguishers.
- Housing Directorate employees assigned to undertake Fire Safety Inspections have received IFE approved training via West Midlands Fire Service.
- 5) Staff undertaking fire risk assessments are qualified to or working towards Level 4 Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment.
- 6) Fire safety information has been provided as part of tenancy pack.
- 7) Building safety and evacuation notices are displayed in common areas and lift cars.







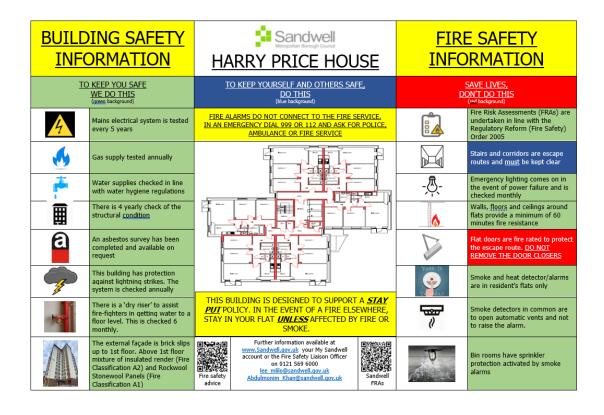
8) Information regarding use of fire doors is provided to residents.



9) Information regarding the Stay Put unless fire evacuation strategy is provided to residents.



10) Information regarding building safety is contained within a Building Safety Notice. This is affixed to the wall on the ground floor lift lobby of high rise blocks.



## **Sources of Ignition**

1) Smoking is prohibited within any communal parts of the building in line with Smoke Free England legislation.



- 2) Hot working is not normally carried out. If essential maintenance requires the use of hot work processes, then corporate policies and procedures are to be followed.
- 3) Portable electrical equipment used as part of the Caretaking / Cleaning regime is subject to annual PAT Testing. This information is held by the Estate Services Manager Bryan Low.
- 4) The fixed electrical installation shall be tested every 5 years. The last inspection was noted as April 2019 therefore may now be overdue.



5) The electrical installation i.e. risers are contained within dedicated service cupboards that are secure and protected by means of a notional 54mm FD60 timber fire doors.





- 6) There is lightening protection installed to the block. Maintenance contracts are in place for lightning conductor testing in accordance with BS 6651.
- 7) Portable heaters are not allowed in any common parts of the premises.

8) Gas appliances and pipework (where installed) are subject to annual testing and certification. This cyclical contract is managed







### **Waste Control**

- 1) There is a regular Cleaning Service to the premises.
- 2) Refuse hoppers are accessed in each floor within the chute rooms.



3) Refuse containers are located in the bin store at ground level.



- 4) Regular checks by Caretakers minimise risk of waste accumulation.
- 5) 'Out of Hours' service in place to remove bulk items.

## **Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors**

- Responsive Repairs service delivered by Sandwell MBC necessitates the production of an order via the computerised repairs system. Details of any known risks are documented on the repair order.
- 2) Hot works are not permitted unless authorisation is given via the approved officer. The hot works procedure is to be followed.
- 3) Utility companies are not allowed to access any service cupboard or secure area. They must request and collect maintenance keys from the Investments office @ Roway Lane. This allows scrutiny of what is the scope of any works such as installation of tenant's broadband / phone line etc.
- 4) Where contractors are appointed to undertake major refurbishment works, Sandwell MBC Urban Design team will put control measures in place. Such Measures include:
  - a) Pre-Contract Meetings where contractor is made aware of all working arrangements and safe systems of work to be adopted. Issues covered in this meeting will include:
    - Health and Safety.
    - Site security.
    - Safety of working and impact on children/school business.
    - Fire risk, if any.
      - Site Emergency Plan.
  - b) Monthly Site Meetings in order to monitor, review and share any new information including any new risks.
  - c) Site monitored daily whilst work is in progress by Clerk of Works / Health and Safety Officers.
  - d) Final Contractor review on completion of works undertaken.

### **Arson Prevention**

- 1) Regular checks are undertaken by Caretakers / Cleaning Team(s) 365 days per year which helps reduce the risk of arson.
- 2) Restricted access to the premises by means of a door entry system.



- 3) CCTV is in operation covering the ground floors, lifts and external areas and surrounding areas. The system is monitored 365 days per year by the centralised CCTV control room located at the Sandwell MBC Operations and Development Centre, Roway Lane, Oldbury, B693ES.
- 4) There is some evidence of arson within the building (scorching).



- 5) The perimeter of the premises is well illuminated.
- 6) There have been no reported fire incidents since the last FRA (23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022).

### **Storage Arrangements**

- 1) Residents instructed not to bring L.P.G cylinders into block (Notice displayed in lifts).
- 2) The tenancy conditions, Section 7 Condition 5.6 stipulates "If you live in a flat or maisonette, you, people living with you and any visitors to your property must not keep or use paraffin oil, petrol, bottled gas appliances or any other explosive, FLAMMABLE or dangerous material in the property. This restriction also applies to any storage facility situated in or attached to the block, which has been provided for your use."
- 3) No Flammable liquids stored on site by Caretakers / cleaners.
- 4) All store cupboards are kept locked.
- 5) There are no flammable liquids or gas cylinders stored on site.

## Additional Control Measures; Fire Risk Assessment - Level 2 Action Plan

Significant Findings

Α	cti	or	١P	lan

It is considered that	at the following recon	nmendations sh	rould be
implemented to re	duce fire risk to, or m	naintain it at, the	e following level:

Trivial ⊠ Tolerable □

Definition of priorities (where applicable):

- P1 Arrange and complete as urgent Within 10 days
- P2 Arrange and complete within 1-3 Months of assessment date
- P3 Arrange and complete within 3-6 Months of assessment date
- P4 Arrange and complete exceeding 6 months under programmed work



# Fire Risk Assessment Level 2 Action Plan



Name of Premises or Location:	Harry Price House	
Date of Action Plan:	04/06/24	
Review Date:	<insert date=""></insert>	

When undertaking future improvement program(s), it is advised that the observations listed below should be given consideration (noting that the safety of the residents is not jeopardised by these, and all steps to reduce any known risks have been taken).

Question/ Ref No	Required Action	Supporting photograph	Priority	Timescale and Person Responsible	Date Completed
6/5	Flat 7 - Remove plastic greenhouse type structure from balcony.		P2	Within 1-3 months Housing Manager	

#### Fire Risk Assessment

6/6	Flat 63 – Remove screening installed to balcony.		P2	Within 1-3 months Housing Manager
6/7	Flat 4 – Remove Bamboo screening from balcony		P2	Within 1-3 months Housing Manager
7/14a	Flat 46 – Remove combustible wreath from fire door.	46	P2	Within 1-3 months Housing Manager

7/14b	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor near flats 9,10,11 remove 2 x bicycles and pairs of shoes from communal corridor.	P2	Within 1-3 months Housing Manager	
7/14c	1 <sup>st</sup> floor near flats 3,4,5 remove children's toys and cot from communal corridor.	P2	Within 1-3 months Housing Manager	

#### Fire Risk Assessment

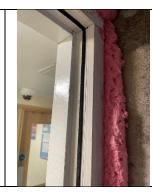
7/19a	Flat 25 / 4 <sup>th</sup> floor - Install self-closing device to flat entrance door	P2	Within 1-3 months Fire Rapid Response
7/19c	Flat 44 / 7 <sup>th</sup> floor – Adjust self-closer to ensure door positively engages latch.	P2	Within 1-3 months Fire Rapid Response
8/5	Confirm sufficient routine testing & maintenance of fire alarm system takes place.	P2	Within 1-3 months Electrical Compliance Manager

10/6	Install twin intumescent strips to server room door.		P2	Within 1-3 months Fire Rapid Response
14/4	Confirm date of last EICR to the landlord's supply is within the last 5 years or has been scheduled for completion	SERVER ROOM DB  IMPORTANT  This installation should be periodically inspected and tested and a report on its condition obtained, as prescribed in the IEE Wiring Regulations BS 7671 Requirements for Electrical Installations. Date of last inspection	P2	Within 1-3 months Electrical Compliance Manager

When undertaking future improvement program(s), it is advised that the observations listed below should be given consideration (noting that the safety of the residents is not jeopardised by these, and all steps to reduce any known risks have been taken).

### Observations

PU pink fire foam filler was noted around the void flat entrance door frames to the ground floor. Removing and replacing this foam with a more suitable product should be considered during door replacements or future refurbishment works.



### Signed

Chill	Fire Risk Assessor	Date: 04/06/2024
Benut	Quality Assurance Check	Date: 13/06/2024

### **Appendix 1**

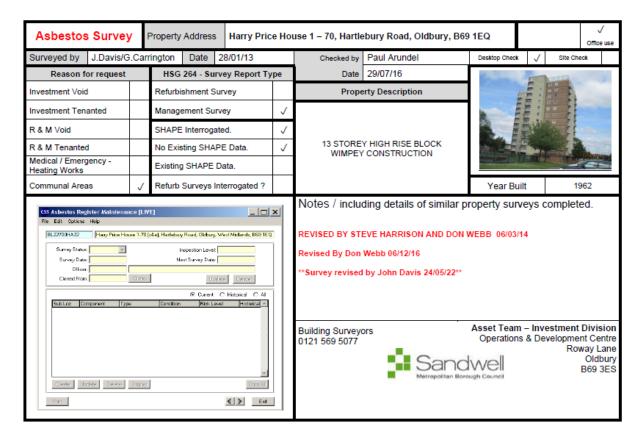
## Significant Hazards on Site and Information to be Provided for the Fire Service

Name of property: Harry Price House

**Updated:** 24/05/2022

Premise Manager: Tony Thompson Tel. No.: 0121 569 2975

Hazard	Information/Comments
Asbestos	An asbestos survey has been undertaken of the communal areas. Survey held by Sandwell Housing (Derek Still Tel:- 0121 569 5077).  Include survey



Sample Locations		Prope Addre		larry Pric	e House 1 – 70	), Hartlebury	Road, Oldbury	, B69	1EQ	
LOCATION		MAT	ERIAL	QTY	SURFACE TREATMENT	SAMPLE REF	RESULT	HSE NOTIF Y	Labelled?	ACTION TAKEN ON CONTRACT
IF DURING THE COURSE OF WOR	K SUSP	ECTED A	CM'S ARE	IDENTIFIE	D THAT ARE NO	CONTAINED	WITHIN THIS REP	ORT ST	OP W	ORK & SEEK ADVICE
LIFT MOTOR ROOM 300mm DIA PIPE		CE	MENT	4 lm	SEALED	PRESUMED	CHRYSOTILE	NO	NO	
LIFT MOTOR ROOM 300mm DIA PIPE		CE	MENT	2 lm	SEALED	PRESUMED	CHRYSOTILE	NO	NO	
BOARD ON ROOF OUTSIDE FAN HOUSE (ROOF ADJACENT TO No 70	DOOR)	CE	MENT.	0.5 m2	UNSEALED	PRESUMED	CHRYSOTILE	NO.	NO	
COMMUNAL WALLS - ALL FLOORS		TEXTURE	D COATING	-	SEALED-PAINT	DS 6614	NONE DETECTED	NO	NO	
SIDE WALLS TO DRY RISER CUPBOARDS		ВО	ARD	2 m²	UNSEALED	DS6614	NONE DETECTED	-	-	-
FLOOR TILES TO ALL LANDINGS		THERM	<del>OPLASTIC</del>		SEALED	PRESUMED	CHRYSOTILE	NO	NO	
MAIN ROOF		ASF	HALT	-	SEALED	DW824/001	NO ASBESTOS DETECTED	NO	NO	-
ROOF EDGEING		FIBRE GLASS		-	SEALED	DW824/002	NO ASBESTOS DETECTED	NO	NO	-
ITEMS SHOWN BELO	W HAV	E BEEN A	SSESSED	ON SITE B	Y THE ASBESTO	S SURVEYOR	& ARE CONFIRME	D NOT	то в	ACM's.
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	мат	ERIAL	LOCA	ATION DES	CRIPTION	MATERIAL	LOCATIO	N DESC	RIPTI	ON MATERIAL
ROOF TOP FAN ROOMS PIPES	М	ETAL	CAN	NOPY ROOF C	OVERING	MINERAL FELT				
ROOF TOP FAN ROOMS ROOF COVERING	MINEF			BOARD ON LEFT HAND SIDE BY FRONT ENTRANCE DOOR		PLYWOOD				
CANOPY TO ROOF ACCESS DOOR	PLY	PLYWOOD S		IT TO FRONT	ENTRANCE	PLASTIC				
LANDING STOP TAP BOX COVERS TO INDIVIDUAL FLATS	SUI	PALUX								
11 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CEILING PANEL BY CHUTE ROOM	TII	MBER								

#### About the Report

All Survey Methodology is based upon HSE document HSG 264 - Asbestos: The Survey Guide. All surveyors are experienced British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) P402 qualified surveyors with extensive Surveying & Refurbishment Project experience specific to Sandwell Homes' managed housing stock.

The person or persons using this report to programme refurbishment work on site are assumed to be competent & experienced in the field of domestic refurbishment projects & have suitable & sufficient asbestos swareness to understand the scope of this report & project. All trade operatives working on site are also expected to have relevant asbestos swareness training & experience. IF IN DOUBT STOP & ASKI SHAPE: Sandwell Homes' Integrated ICT solution holds the Company Asbestos Register. The Asbestos Register is interrogated when completing the asbestos survey report to ensure that ACM's in similar properties are considered where relevant. The Register holds details of all suspected or confirmed ACM's identified during Refurbishment & Demolition programmes as well as Repairs activities for the past 11 years. If potential ACM's have been identified within difficult to survey greass such as Cavity Walls, Floor Voids eto these will be highlighted within the report. The interrogation of the Company Asbestos Register compliments the survey & report process it does not substitute the Refurbishment & Demolition Survey.

Void Properties — The Building Surveying team who undertake Refurbishment & Demolition Asbestos Surveys also undertake Domestic Energy Assessment Surveys, Boroscope Surveys for Thermal Insulation & Fire Integrity Assessments to a representative percentage of the void turn over.

Site Overview Page 2 – This section is included to aid surveying & to ensure comprehensive survey information is detailed.

Term	Explanation
Property Address	Specific Property to which survey relates.
Surveyed by	Relates to P402 trained surveyor.
Blank	Blank
Type of Work to be undertaken	Relates to the envisaged type of work that the Asbestos Survey Report will be used to aid. This assists the asbestos surveyor to guide his survey methodology & will help the users of this report decide if it is suitable for the work activity being undertaken.
ACM	Asbestos Containing Material.
HSE Notify	This highlights if a material normally requires notification to the Health & Safety Executive prior to removal. GUIDANCE ONLY.
Bulk Sample	Sample of potential ACM that is representative of the whole.
Request Sample	The item described has not been tested for Asbestos content. The item must be presumed to contain asbestos until sampling confirms. If work is going to be undertaken in this area sample should be requested prior to work starting.
Awaiting Results	If no results have been detailed then you must not work on these items until you receive further confirmation.
Extent	An estimate of quantity will be given where possible to aid work planning & valuation.
Labels	Materials will be labelled where practical. Labelling will be not be undertaken to low risk materials e.g. floor files, Textured Coatings etc or where labelling could easily be removed or would cause potential exposure if removed. All presumed ACM's will be labelled as "Asbestos" where possible. All sampled materials will be labelled with an' Asbestos Sampled' label.

Term	Explanation
Photo's	These will usually be provided for the front elevation of the property to aid identification.
Sampled by	P402 trained surveyor.
Checked by	P402 trained surveyor who checks report prior to issuing.
Survey Report Type	Report type is determined by the type of work to be undertaken. The reader of this report must satisfy themselves that the scope of the survey is sufficient for the purpose of work being undertaken.
Refurbishment Survey	HSG 284 – Refurbishment & Demolition Survey. Surveying undertaken to all parts of the property presuming full decent homes refurbishment, which may include, New Kitchen, New Bathroom, Electrical Rewire, Re-roof, Full Heating System. Taking account of the complete structure of the property & archetype information available. This survey has been carried out without detailed knowledge of the works to be undertaken during refurbishment.
Management Survey	A management survey is the standard survey. Its purpose is to locate, as far as reasonably practicable, the presence and extent of any suspect ACMs in the building which could be damaged or disturbed during normal occupancy, including foreseeable maintenance and installation, and to assess their condition.
Cavity Walls / Floor Voids or similar.	Will be assessed at survey stage & desktop assessment of similar archetypes.
SP	Strong Presumption that material contains asbestos. Used to qualify possible false negative laboratory results.
Photo's	Where practical & to aid the identification of ambiguous material locations photos will be included within the report to ensure that materials are identified on-site correctly. Photos will be annotated where necessary.