

Fire Risk Assessment

St Mary's House 1-64



**Summer Street, West Bromwich,
B71 4HZ.**

Date Completed: 26th February 2024

Review Period: 12 months

Officer: Anthony Smith **Fire Risk Assessor**

Checked By: Tony Thompson **Fire Safety Manager**

Current Risk Rating = Tolerable

Subsequent reviews

<u>Review date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Comments</u>

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Section

0

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”*.

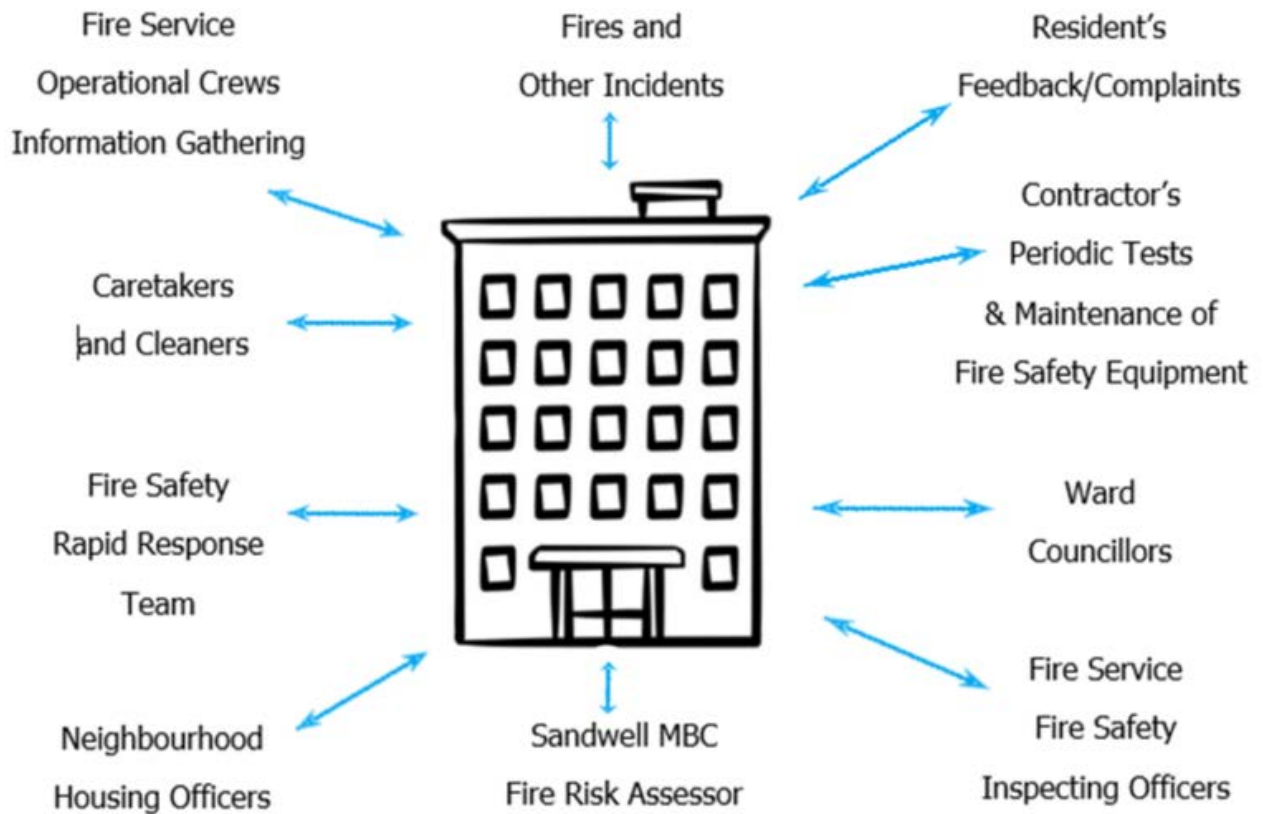
This fire risk assessment has been written to comply fully with the above legislation which is enforced locally by West Midlands Fire Service. If required, complaints can be made to them by telephone on 0121 380 7500 or electronically on <https://www.wmfs.net/our-services/fire-safety/#reportfiresafety>. In the first instance however, we would be grateful if you could contact us directly via [https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact_the_council/283/feedb ack_and_complaints](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200195/contact_the_council/283/feedback_and_complaints) 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.

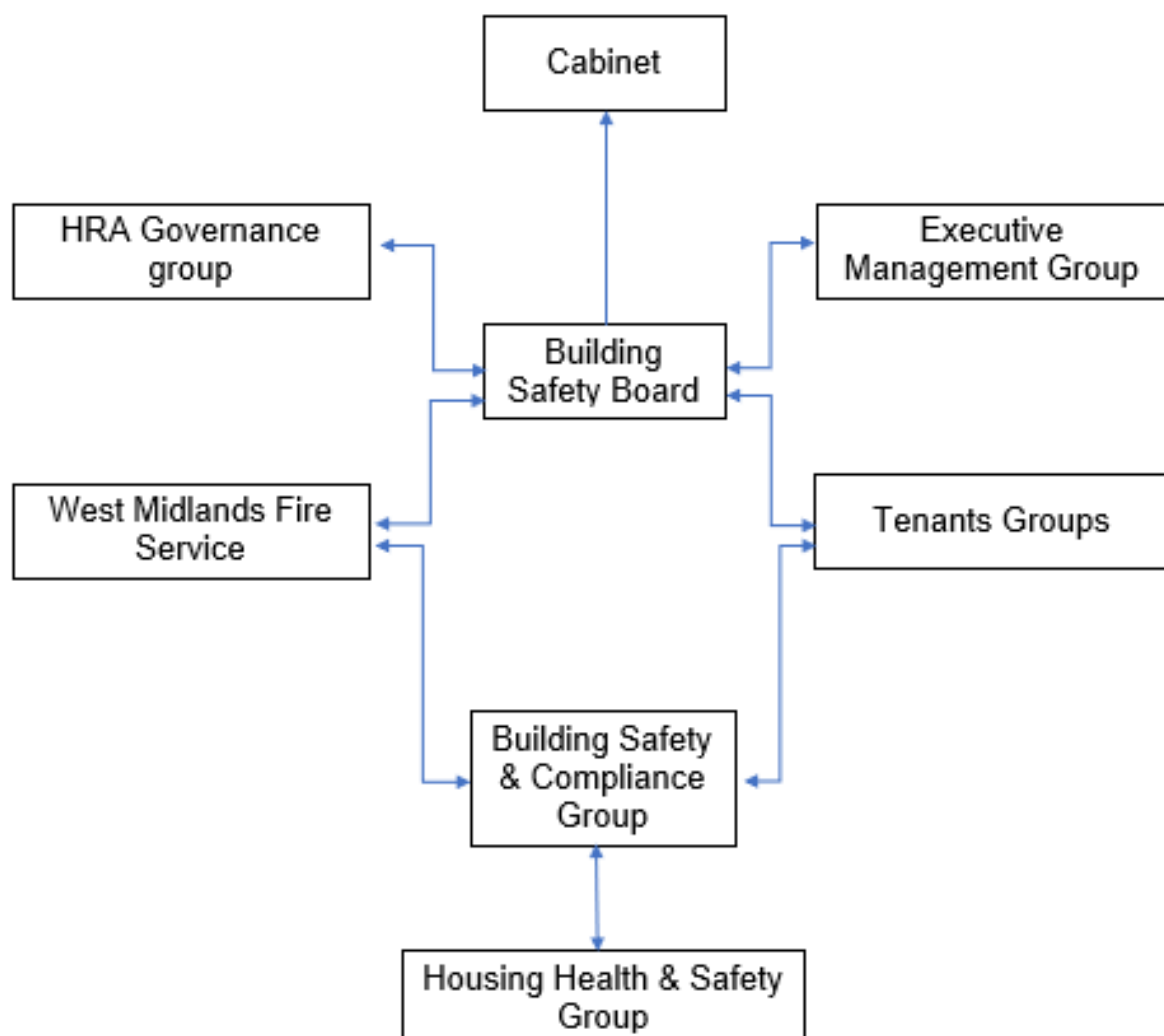
The following diagrams illustrate those procedures and persons that support the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures. This information is provided as required under the RR(FS)O.



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.

Governance Structure



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 [section 1](#). 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.

Section

1

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	<p>External Envelope</p> <p>Brickwork. Fire classification A1.</p> <p>Concrete panel. Fire classification A1.</p> <p>Aluminium panels. Fire classification A1.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>

<p>Section 7</p>	<p>Means of Escape from Fire</p> <p>There is one protected stair that provides sufficient means of escape.</p> <p>Detection for AOV present in staircase on 16th and 7th floor.</p> <p>Emergency lighting is provided to communal lobby, corridors, stairs community room and ground floor lobby.</p> <p>The communal landings and stairs are protected by Notional self-closing FD 30S doors.</p> <p>External letter plate required to flat 61 entrance doors.</p> <p>Communal doors to floor 11 and 9 between lift lobby and corridor not positively closing.</p>	<p>Tolerable</p>
<p>Section 8</p>	<p>Fire Detection and Alarm Systems</p> <p>Fire detection within sampled flats is installed to LD2 and LD3 standard. As confirmed by residents.</p> <p>Automatic opening vents are installed to the staircase.</p> <p>A deluge system is provided to the bin store.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
<p>Section 9</p>	<p>Emergency Lighting</p> <p>The premises have a sufficient emergency / escape lighting system.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>

<p>Section 10</p>	<p>Compartmentation</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Flat entrance doors are nominal 30-minute fire doors with intumescent strips & cold smoke seals, including those in 1-hour rated walls.</p> <p>All service / storage cupboard doors are notional 30-minute fire doors with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals.</p> <p>All communal doors protecting the staircase are notional 30-minute fire doors with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
<p>Section 11</p>	<p>Fire Fighting Equipment</p> <p>The dry riser outlets serve floors 1 to 16.</p> <p>Maintenance contracts are in place to service the dry riser twice yearly and the fire extinguishers annually.</p> <p>Dry riser inlet located within ground floor dry riser cupboard.</p> <p>There is a deluge system in the bin store.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
<p>Section 12</p>	<p>Fire Signage</p> <p>Escape signage is present.</p> <p>LPG cylinder warning signs displayed in lift.</p> <p>Wayfinding signage is present.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>

Section 13	<p>Employee Training</p> <p>All staff receive basic fire safety awareness training.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
Section 14	<p>Sources of Ignition</p> <p>The communal fixed electrical tests should be undertaken every 5 years. Next test is scheduled for 08/03/2024.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
Section 15	<p>Waste Control</p> <p>Regular checks by Caretakers minimise risk of waste accumulation.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
Section 16	<p>Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors</p> <p>Contractors are controlled centrally, and hot works permits are required where necessary.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
Section 17	<p>Arson Prevention</p> <p>A door entry system prevents unauthorised access.</p> <p>Perimeter lighting is in place.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>
Section 18	<p>Storage Arrangements</p> <p>Residents instructed not to bring L.P.G cylinders into block.</p>	<p>Trivial</p>

In this context, a definition of 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 that the risk to life from fire at these premises is:

Trivial Tolerable Moderate 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 fixing of a letter plate to entrance door of flat 61 and ensuring the effective closing of communal doors to floors 11 and 9.

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, Notional 30-minute fire doors upgraded with intumescent strips / cold smoke seals to lobby & stairwell. Notional 30-minute fire doors to service cupboards also with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals. Suitable smoke detection to LD2 and LD3 standard within flats, automatic smoke ventilation system to the stairwell 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.)

Section

2

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.

Section

3

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

Interim Director of Housing

Dean Epton

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

Resident Engagement Officer - Fire Safety

Lee Mlilo

Abdul Monim Khan

Housing Office Manager

Lisa Ellis

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

Section 4

Description of Premises

St Mary's House
Summer Street
West Bromwich
B71 4HZ

Description of the Property

The high-rise block was constructed in 1967. The block consists of 17 storeys (inclusive of the ground floor). Each of the floors from 1 to 16 contains 4 number dwellings, there are no dwellings on the ground floor. The block has a main entrance to the front elevation, with a further entrance/exit located on the left-hand side of the block and a further exit located on the right-hand side of the block.



Each of the floors (1-16) contains 4 number dwellings.



The fire fighters' white box is located above and to the left of the front entrance.

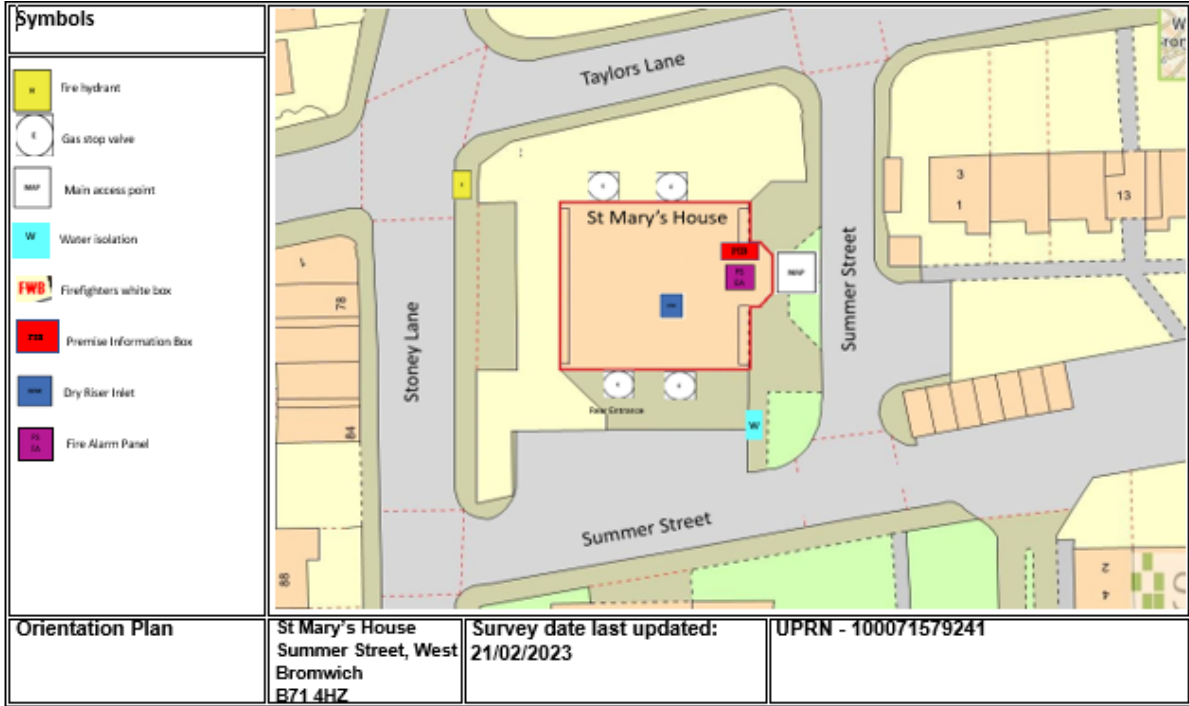


There is a Secure Premise Information Box (PIB) located in the lobby. It is a Gerda box that utilises a standard WMFS suited key. The PIB contains floor plans, vertical plans, orientation plans, information for WMFS and documents for those with vulnerabilities who may require additional consideration if there is a fire incident. Keys for WMFS will also be held within the PIB.



Orientation Plan

The location of service isolation points for gas, electricity and water are detailed on a plan located in the fire fighter's white box.



On arrival Information (for WMFS)

Address: St Mary's House, Summer Street, B71 4HZ		Survey date: 21/02/2023	ON ARRIVAL INFORMATION
BUILDING LAYOUT			
Size: Width, <u>depth</u> and height			
Construction	Walls, large panel prefabricated concrete construction. The facade to the side elevations are brick the front and rear elevations are brick work to first floor then aluminium panels with Rockwool insulation to the upper floors.		
Number of floors	17 including ground floor		
Layout	<p>The block consists of 17 storeys (inclusive of the ground floor) each of the floors contains 4 number dwellings except the ground floor.</p> <p>The ground floor consists of large main entrance/ lobby area, community room, scooter store, lift lobby, rear lobby, staff/ caretaker office, EM cupboard, water locker, bathroom.</p> <p>Fire alarm system for the community room on the ground floor with the fire alarm panel accessed in the main entrance lobby.</p> <p>Mobile phone station equipment on the roof.</p> <p>The block has 3 exits.</p> <p>2 lifts that serve alternating floors one serving odd floors and the other serving even floors.</p> <p>Stairwell is protected with good compartmentation provided with operable windows on each floor and open louvre vents to each floor of the block</p>		
Lifts	2 lifts that serve alternating floors one serving odd floors and the other serving even floors. Both lifts can be accessed from the ground floor lift lobby.		
Types of entrance doors	Flat entrance doors are fire door construction.		
Rubbish chutes/ bin rooms	Yes, secured behind FD30s timber doors		
Common voids	No		
Access to roof/ service rooms	The lift motor room is located on the roof, access is obtained via an aluminium ladder (stored in the 16th floor dry riser cupboard) that allows access into the motor room through a trap door (located on the top floor landing). A full height door then allows access out onto the main roof.		
Occupants	Approx. 128 based on an average of 2 occupants per flat (64 flats)		
Evacuation strategy	Stay Put Unless- 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 or smoke		
Fire alarm/ evacuation alarm	Fire alarm in community room only with a siren/ beacon on the ground floor nearest the main access point. Reset switch located in the community room rest of the building consisting of <u>at-early</u> warning limited to hard wire or battery smoke alarms within each of the resident's flats.		
Caretaker/ concierge	Caretaking/cleaning service that conducts regular checks of the building		
FIREFIGHTING SYSTEMS			
Water supplies	Fire hydrant is located 20m from the building, fire hydrant / water isolation points located on the orientation plan, there is a dry riser that serves the building outlet located in the rear exit of the building under the stairs. The dry riser can also be located on the floor plan the <u>floor-</u>		
Fire mains	The dry riser inlet (twin valve) is located on the ground floor of the block towards the rear entrance under the staircase secured with bin store padlock with adequate signage		
Firefighting shafts	No firefighting lifts/shafts however there are two lifts serving adjacent floors of the block.		
Smoke control vents	Automatic smoke ventilation is employed. There are master reset key switches located on the ground floor nearest Main access point next to the fire alarm panel.		
Sprinkler system	A drenching system is provided to the refuse chute bin store		
DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES			
Location, type, and quantity	LIFT MOTOR ROOM WALL PANELS INTERNALLY AROUND ROOF ACCESS DOOR, board, paint sealed, ammonia. All communal ceilings, textured coating, paint sealed, chrysolite.		
SERVICES			
Electricity	Electric meter cupboards located on each floor of the block		
Gas	Gas isolation points located on the orientation plan		

There are two separate lift cars that serve alternate floors, however both lifts supplies serve the ground floor.



The lift motor room is located on the roof, access is obtained via an aluminium ladder(stored in the 16th floor dry riser cupboard) that allows access into the motor room through a trap door (located on the top floor landing). A full height door then allows access out onto the main roof.



There is a community room (two storey exits) and a storeroom located on the ground floor; access is obtained via the main front entrance lobby. Access was not gained to the storeroom as no key within white box also caretakers have no key. There is a caretaker's office, water booster pump room and toilet also located on the ground floor; access is obtained via the lift lobby and the rear exit corridor.



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 Rise
Number of Floors	17
Date of Construction	1967
Construction Type	Wates. Concrete frame with masonry infill.
Last Refurbished	2007/2008
External Cladding	Brickwork (Fire Classification A1). Aluminium panel (Fire Classification A1). Concrete panel (Fire Classification A1)
Number of Lifts	Two
Number of Staircases	One
Automatic Smoke Ventilation to communal area	Yes.
Fire Alarm System	Yes
Refuse Chute	Yes
Access to Roof	Access to motor room via trap door on 16 th floor. An aluminium ladder is stored in the dry riser cupboard accessed with a 54 key. Once in the motor room there is a full height door out on to the roof.
Equipment on roof (e.g. mobile phone station etc)	Yes

Persons at Risk

Residents / Occupants of 64 number of flats.

Visitors,

Sandwell MBC employees,

Contractors,

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

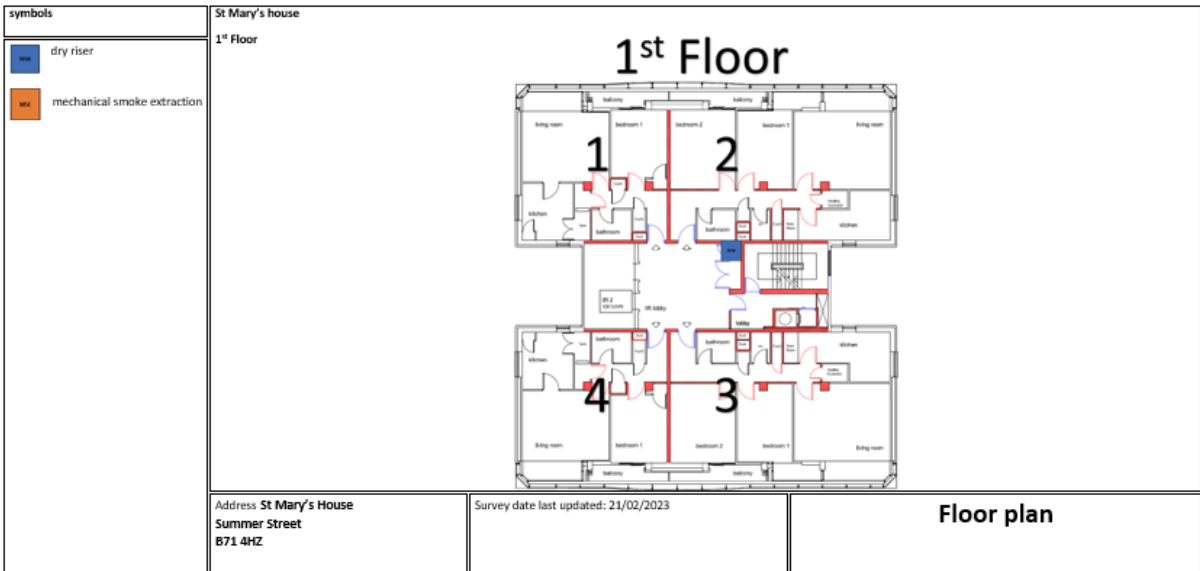
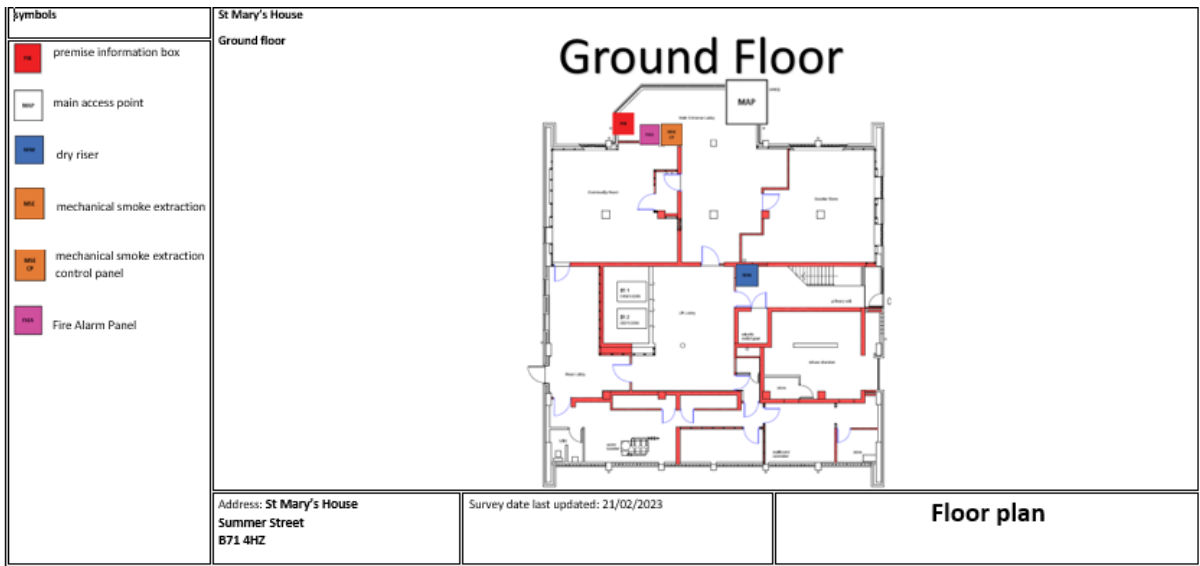
Statutory bodies (e.g. W.M.F.S, Police, and Ambulance)

Section

5

Building Plan

A typical floor layout showing horizontal lines of compartmentation, emergency lighting, fire detection is attached and AOVs etc. The plans have been shared with WMFS electronically via their portal.



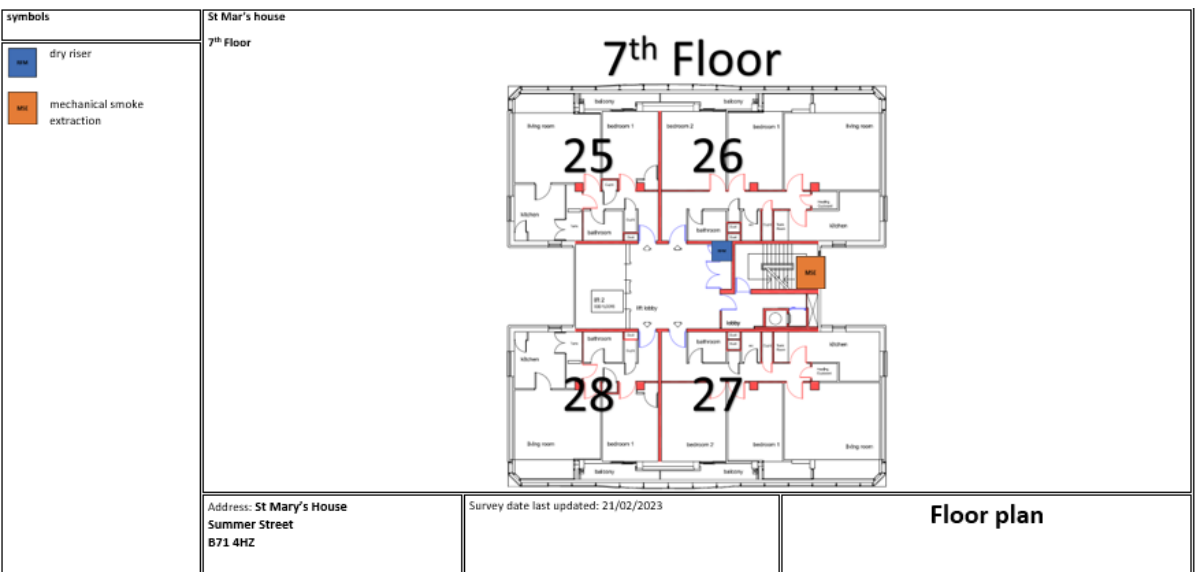
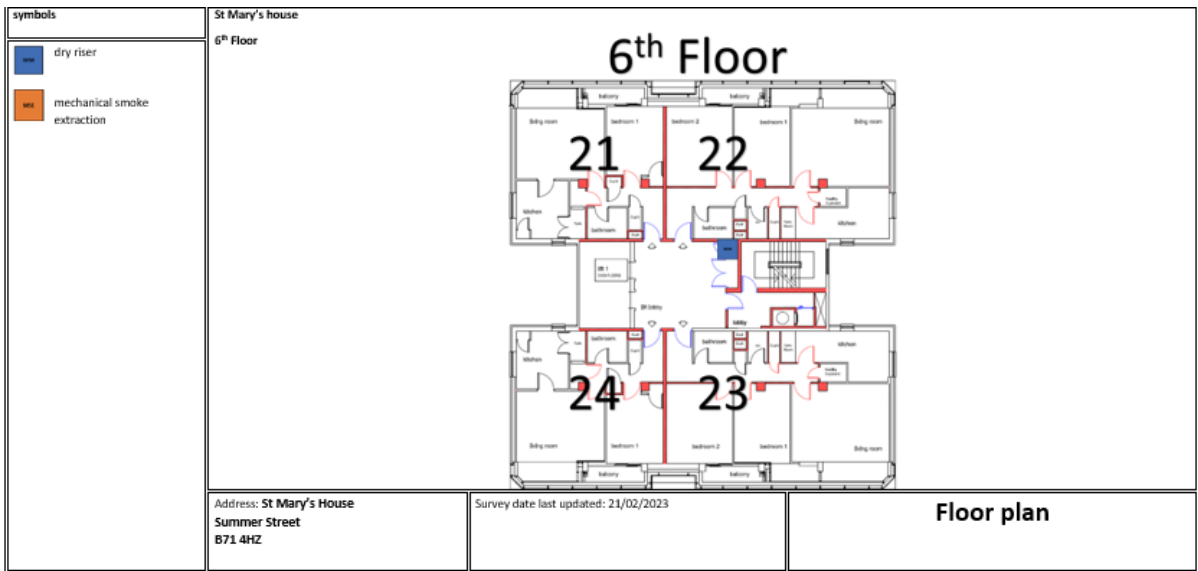
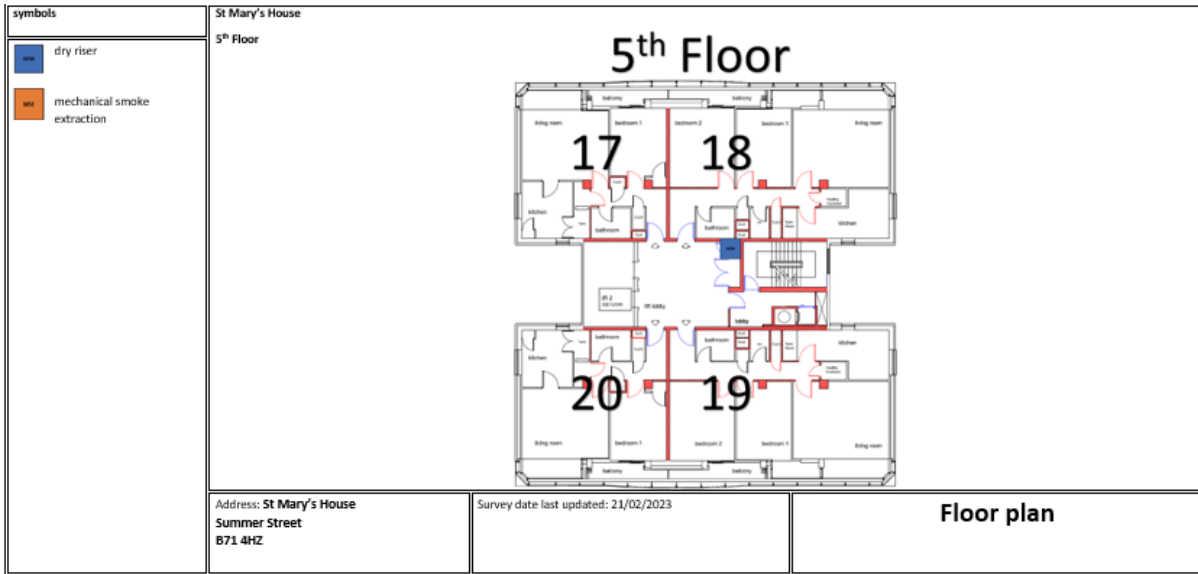
Fire Risk Assessment

<p>symbols</p> <p> dry riser</p> <p> mechanical smoke extraction</p>	<p>St Mary's House 2nd Floor</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">2nd Floor</h2> </div>	
<p>Address: St Mary's House Summer Street B71 4HZ</p>	<p>Survey date last updated: 21/02/2023</p>	<p>Floor plan</p>

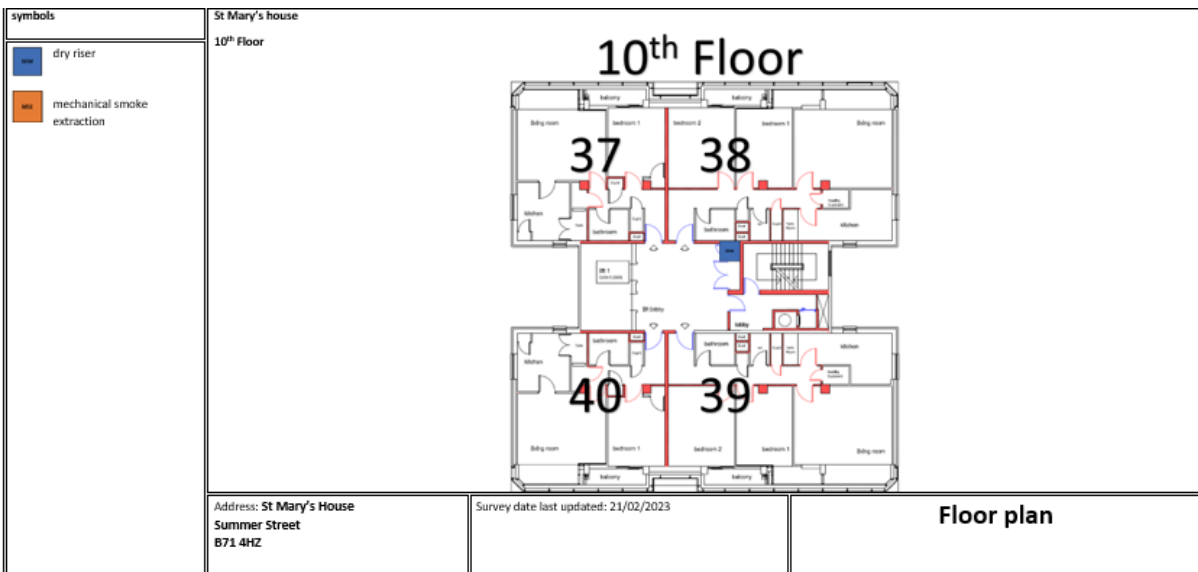
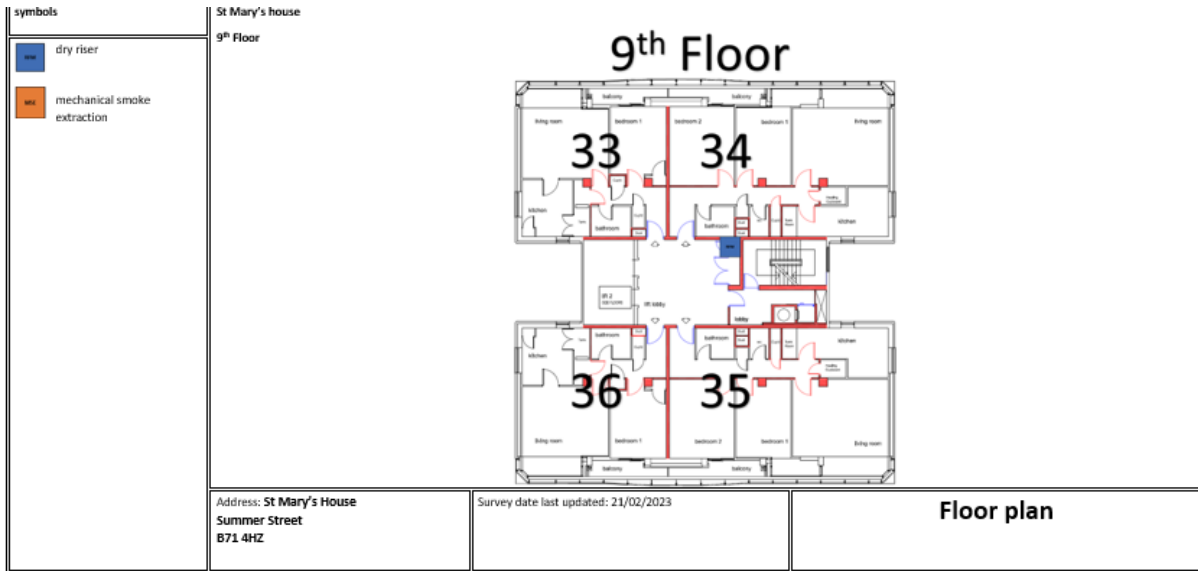
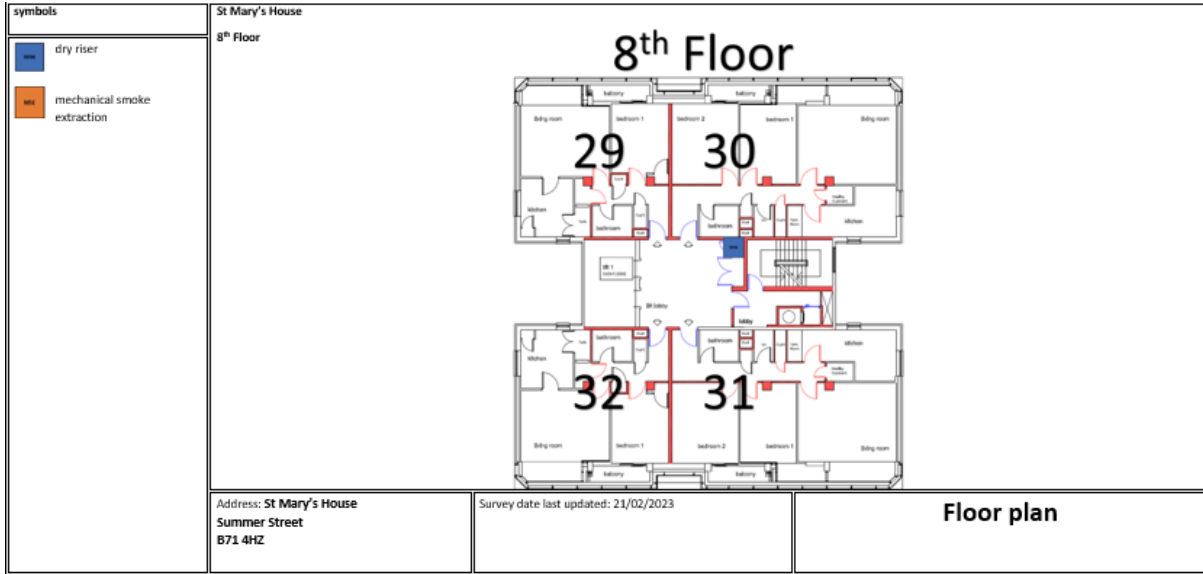
<p>symbols</p> <p> dry riser</p> <p> mechanical smoke extraction</p>	<p>St Mary's House 3rd Floor</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">3rd Floor</h2> </div>	
<p>Address: St Mary's House Summer Street B71 4HZ</p>	<p>Survey date last updated: 21/02/2023</p>	<p>Floor plan</p>

<p>symbols</p> <p> dry riser</p> <p> mechanical smoke extraction</p>	<p>St Mary's House 4th Floor</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">4th Floor</h2> </div>	
<p>Address: St Mary's House Summer Street B71 4HZ</p>	<p>Survey date last updated: 21/02/2023</p>	<p>Floor plan</p>

Fire Risk Assessment



Fire Risk Assessment



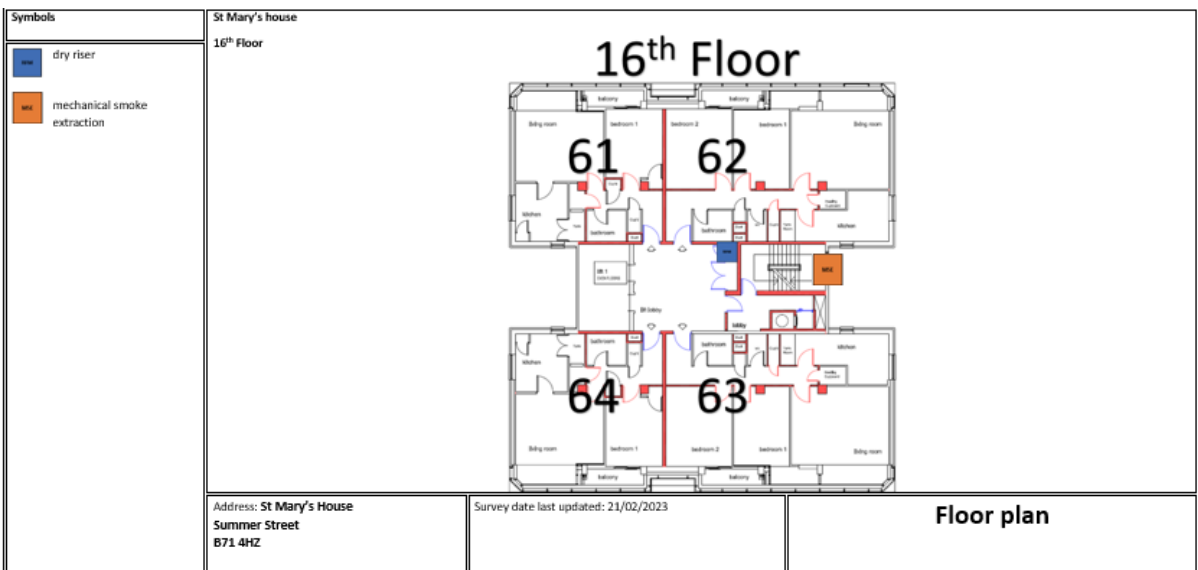
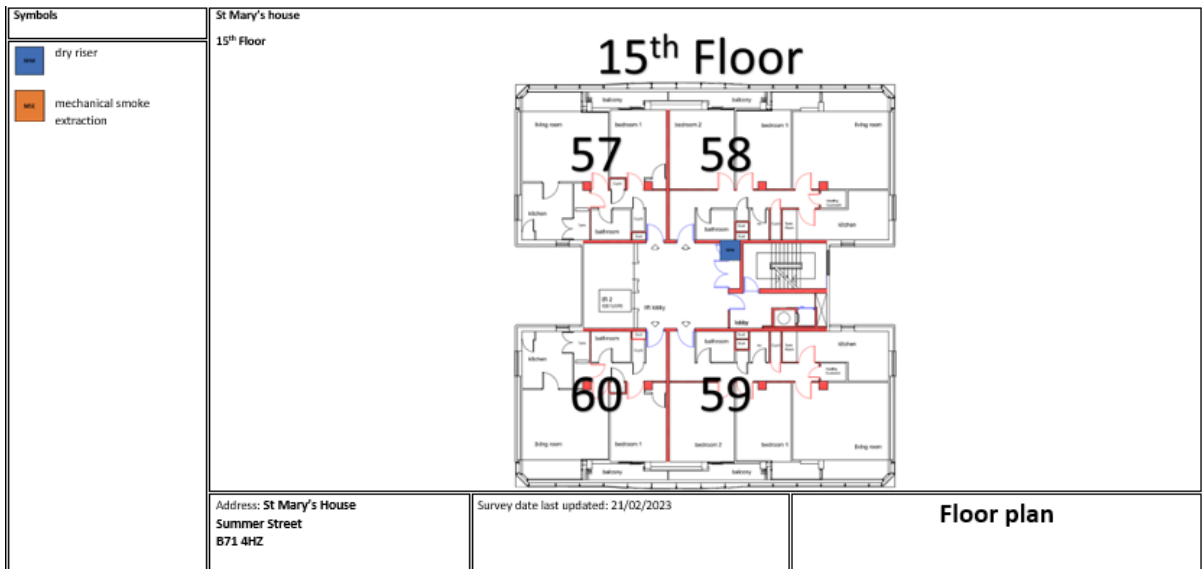
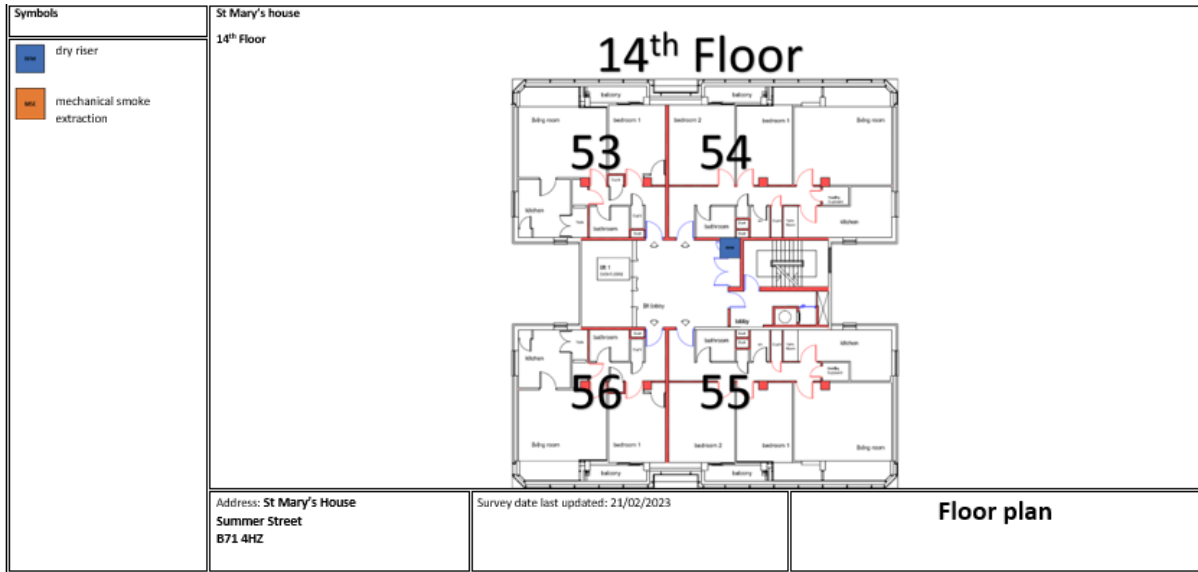
Fire Risk Assessment

<p>symbols</p> <p> dry riser</p> <p> mechanical smoke extraction</p>	<p>St Mary's house 11th floor</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">11th Floor</h2> </div>	
<p>Address: St Mary's House Summer Street B71 4HZ</p>	<p>Survey date last updated: 21/02/2023</p>	<p>Floor plan</p>

<p>Symbols</p> <p> dry riser</p> <p> mechanical smoke extraction</p>	<p>St Mary's house 12th floor</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">12th Floor</h2> </div>	
<p>Address: St Mary's House Summer Street B71 4HZ</p>	<p>Survey date last updated: 21/02/2023</p>	<p>Floor plan</p>

<p>Symbols</p> <p> dry riser</p> <p> mechanical smoke extraction</p>	<p>St Mary's house 13th floor</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">13th Floor</h2> </div>	
<p>Address: St Mary's House Summer Street B71 4HZ</p>	<p>Survey date last updated: 21/02/2023</p>	<p>Floor plan</p>

Fire Risk Assessment



Section

6

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

Provide a breakdown of the materials used and whether these or their combination or application present an acceptable level of fire risk.

Below is a breakdown of the materials used within the external envelope and, as part of the external wall system of St Marys House.

It is deemed that the combination and application of these materials present an acceptable level of fire risk.



Fire Risk Assessment



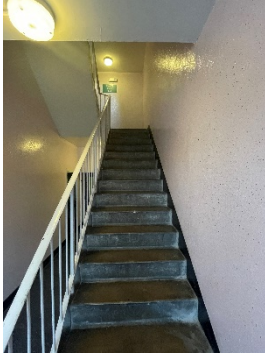
- 1) Netting was noted on the majority of balconies on the front and rear elevations. This should be removed as combustible and encourages the trapping of combustible waste. Email sent to housing manager on 04/03/2024.



**Section
7**

Means of Escape from Fire

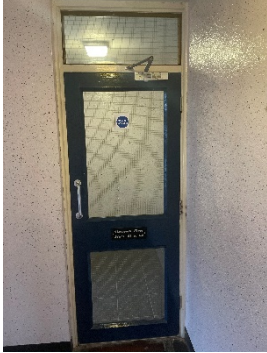
- 1) The site has one staircase that provides a means of escape.



- 2) All corridors are of adequate width 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 / staircases are protected by use of Notional FD30s fire doors with vision panels. These doors have been upgraded with a combined strip consisting of a cold smoke seal and intumescent strip.



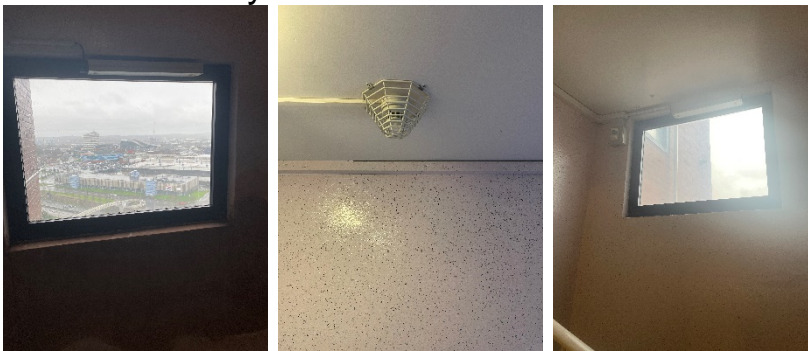
- 6) All communal doors are fitted with automatic closing devices that are checked on a regular basis by Caretaking Teams as part of their checks. Defective closing devices are replaced either by the Caretaking Team(s) or the in-house repairs team(s).



- 7) All communal fire doors are subject to a 12-week check by the Fire Safety Rapid Response Team.
- 8) The final exit doors have door entry systems 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.



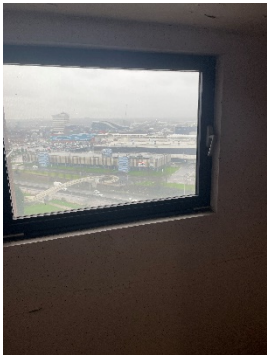
- 9) Automatic smoke ventilation is employed to the staircase on floors: 16 and 7. This is tested, inspected and maintained by a competent procured contractor in accordance with BS7346. The frequency for the maintenance checks are twice per year (April and October) of each calendar year.



10) There is a master reset key switch.

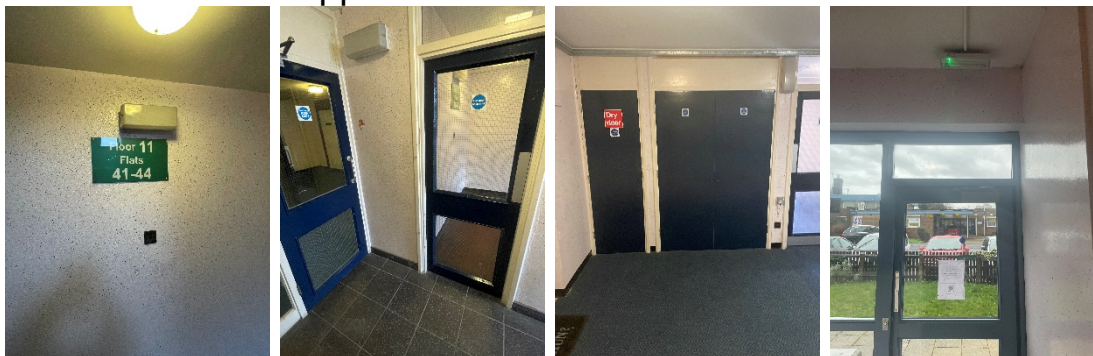


11) Communal windows can only be opened by operating the automatic smoke vents and with the use of a key.



12) 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

13) 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.



14) Dry riser cupboard doors are Notional FD30s rated, kept locked / secured with type 54 suited mortice lock(s).

15) The dry riser inlet is located within the ground floor dry riser cupboard (twin valve) secured with a bridge door padlock.



16) Service cupboard doors are Notional FD30S rated, secured with type 138 suited mortice locks. Residents have been provided with a key for access to their electricity meters.



17) The building has sufficient passive controls that provides 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.

18) Individual flat entrance doors are predominately Nominal FD 30S rated composite 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. Flats accessed were: 24, 48, 50 and 57. Residents confirmed smoke detection provision as no access gained.

20) External letter plate is required to the entrance door of flat 61.



21) Door (Floor 11) separating lift lobby and corridor not closing positively. Self-closer to be adjusted.



22) Door (Floor 9) separating lift lobby and corridor not closing positively. Self-closer to be adjusted.



23) Glazing noted within 1.8m of staircase. Sprinkler roll out programme should therefore consider these apartments.

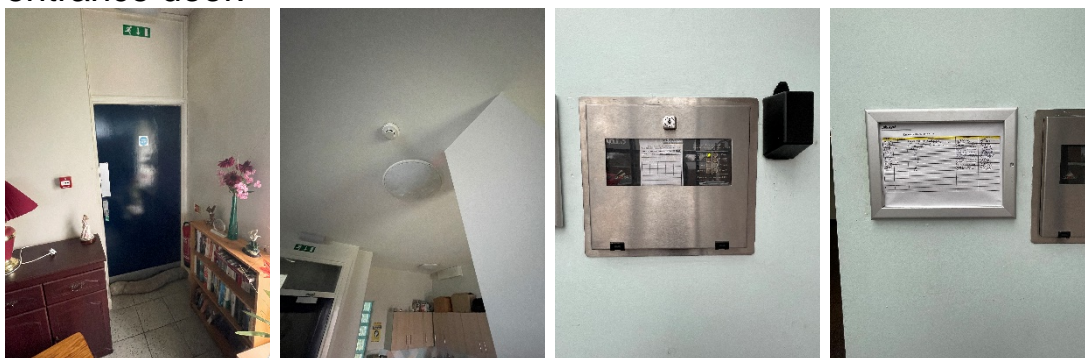


Section

8

Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

- 1) Early warning is limited to hard wire or battery smoke alarms within each of the resident's flats. The equipment is subjected to a cyclical test. The community room also has hard wired smoke detection with break glass points to the storey exits. The fire alarm panel is located in the front entrance lobby opposite the main front entrance door.



- 2) Based on the sample of properties accessed during the fire risk assessment the smoke alarms within resident's flats are installed to an LD3 and LD2 Standard (as confirmed by residents, no access gained).
Flat 24- Detector in Hall. (LD3)
Flat 48- Detector in Hall. (LD3)
Flat 50- Detectors in Hall, kitchen and living room. (LD2)
Flat 57- Detector in Hall. (LD3)

For information

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 the residential communal areas. The reason for this is:
 - I. Such systems may get vandalised.
 - II. False alarms would occur.
 - III. A Stay Put - Unless policy is in place

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



Section 9

Emergency Lighting

- 1) The premises have a sufficient emergency / escape lighting system in accordance with BS 5266 and has test points strategically located.
- 2) The self-contained and central battery units are provided to the communal landings, stairs, corridor and community room.



- 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.

Section
10

Compartmentation

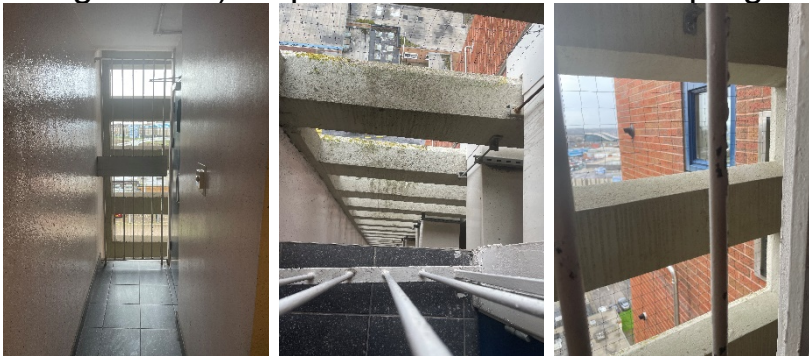
This section should be read in conjunction with Section 4

- 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 30-minute fire resistant with 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 landings are lockable. Keys are held centrally unless containing resident's meters
 - 6) A variety of methods / materials have been used to achieve fire-stopping refer to table below:
-

- 11) Access panels to stop taps are fixed to masonry and bedded on Intumescent foam.



- 12) The existing design of this building presents an open shaft that runs the full height of the building starting at the first floor. The shaft ventilates the corridor that serves both the staircase and the waste chute room. As part of a future works programme consideration should be given to fire stopping at every compartment floor between the outer wall of the shaft and the edge of the existing floor(s) construction or alternatively providing a lobby to protect the staircase. The external shaft netting should also be removed (designed out) as part of this future works programme.



- 13) General waste including discarded cigarettes are accumulating at the bottom of the shaft. Email sent to Caretaking Manager and Housing Manager on 04/03/2024.

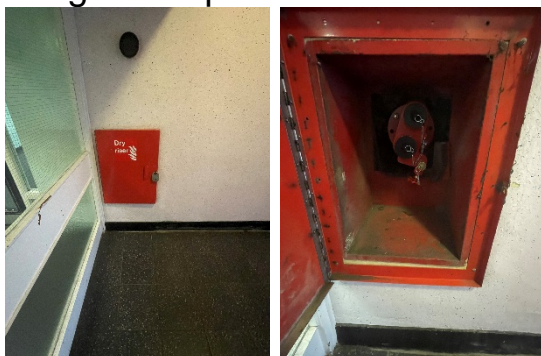


Section

11

Fire Fighting Equipment

- 1) There is a dry riser that serves the building. The dry riser inlet is located within the ground floor dry riser cupboard. Secured with a bridge door pad lock. The doors have signage depicting dry riser.



- 2) The dry riser is checked regularly as part of the Caretakers duties.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Portable fire extinguishers in place, a (CO2) extinguisher is provided to the lift motor room, a CO2 extinguisher is provided to the booster pump room, a Water extinguisher is provided to the Caretakers Office and a Water extinguisher is provided to the Community Room. The frequency for the maintenance checks are once (October) of each calendar year.
- 5) Bin room is protected by Deluge/sprinkler system and serviced 6-monthly.



Section
12

Fire Signage

- 1) All fire doors display “Fire Door Keep Shut” where appropriate.



- 2) Fire Action Notices are displayed throughout the building.



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



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



- 5) Floor indicator numbers are fitted to the wall on each floor.



- 6) Floor indicator numbers are fitted to the wall of each floor on the communal staircase(s).



- 7) Wayfinding signage depicting floor level and flat numbers are located within both staircases and the lift lobby. This meets the requirements within the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022.



Section
13

Employee & Resident Training/Provision of Information


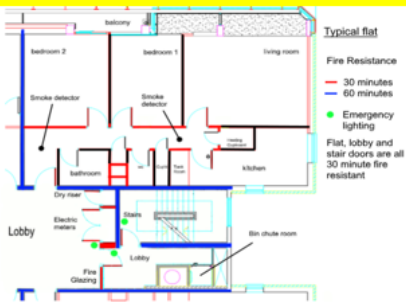

















- 1) All Caretaking / Cleaning Employees have undertaken fire safety training. This includes use of bespoke 'Fire Safety in High / Low Rise Flatted Accommodation' Video.
- 2) All employees are encouraged to complete 'In the line of fire' training on an annual basis.
- 3) Housing Directorate employees assigned to undertake Fire Safety Inspections have received IFE approved training via West Midlands Fire Service.
- 4) Staff undertaking fire risk assessments are qualified to or working towards Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety.
- 5) Fire safety information has been provided as part of tenancy pack.
- 6) Building safety and evacuation notices are displayed in common areas and lift cars.
- 7) Information regarding use of fire doors is provided to residents



- 8) Information regarding the Stay Put unless fire evacuation strategy is provided to residents



- 9) 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.

BUILDING SAFETY INFORMATION		Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council ST. MARY'S HOUSE		FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION	
TO KEEP YOU SAFE WE DO THIS (green background)		TO KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE, DO THIS (blue background)		SAVE LIVES, DON'T DO THIS (red background)	
	Mains electrical system is tested every 5 years	<p>FIRE ALARMS DO NOT CONNECT TO THE FIRE SERVICE, IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999 OR 112 AND ASK FOR POLICE, AMBULANCE OR FIRE SERVICE</p>  <p>Typical flat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire Resistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 minutes 60 minutes Emergency lighting Flat, lobby and stair doors are all 30 minute fire resistant 			Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) are undertaken in line with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
	Gas supply tested annually				Stairs and corridors are escape routes and <u>must</u> be kept clear
	Water supplies are hygiene checked annually				Emergency lighting comes on in the event of power failure and is checked monthly
	There is 4 yearly check of the structural condition				Walls, floors and ceilings around flats provide a minimum of 60 minutes fire resistance
	An asbestos survey has been completed. Asbestos is present, but in a safe condition.				Flat doors are fire rated to protect the escape route. DO NOT REMOVE THE DOOR CLOSERS
	This building has protection against lightning strikes. The system is checked annually		Smoke and heat detector/alarms are in resident's flats only		
	There is a 'dry riser' to assist fire-fighters in getting water to a floor level. This is checked 6 monthly.		Smoke detectors in stairs are to open automatic vents and not to raise the alarm.		
	Cladding materials are Brick, Solid Aluminium Panel and Mineral Wool Insulation. All materials are class A1 limited combustibility. Class A & A1 are the accepted standards following Grenfell.		Bin rooms have sprinkler protection activated by smoke alarms		
	Fire safety advice	Further information available at www.Sandwell.gov.uk your My Sandwell account or the Fire Safety Liaison Officer on 0121 569 6000 lee_millic@sandwell.gov.uk Abdulmonim_Khan@sandwell.gov.uk		Sandwell FRAs	

Section

14

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. It was noted that the next scheduled date for test is 08/03/2024.
- 5) The electrical installation i.e. risers are contained within dedicated service cupboards that are secure and protected by means of a notional FD30S door.
- 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 by the in-house Gas Team. The gas supply is external.



Section
15

Waste Control

- 1) There is a regular Cleaning Service to the premises.
- 2) Refuse containers emptied regularly.
- 3) Regular checks by Caretakers minimise risk of waste accumulation.
- 4) 'Out of Hours' service in place to remove bulk items.

section
16

Control and Supervision of Contractors and Visitors

- 1) 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.

Section

17

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) There is no current evidence of arson.
 - 4) The perimeter of the premises is well illuminated.
 - 5) There have been no reported fire incidents since the last FRA.
-

Section 18

Storage Arrangements

- 1) Residents instructed not to bring L.P.G cylinders into block.



- 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.
-

Section
19

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

Significant Findings

Action Plan

It is considered that the following recommendations should be implemented to reduce fire risk to, or maintain it at, the 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:


St Mary's House 1-64

Date of Action Plan:


04/03/2024

Review Date:


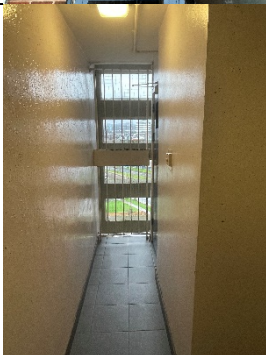
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Question/ Ref No	Required Action	Supporting photograph	Priority	Timescale and Person Responsible	Date Completed
07/20	Fit external letter plate to flat entrance door 61.		P3	Fire Rapid Response 3-6 Months	



Fire Risk Assessment

07/21	Floor 11. Door separating lift lobby and corridor. Self-closer to be adjusted as door not positively closing.		P3	Fire Rapid Response. 3-6 Months	
07/22	Floor 9. Door separating lift lobby and corridor. Self-closer to be adjusted as door not positively closing.		P3	Fire Rapid Response. 3-6 Months	

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		
<p>Section 07/23. Due to proximity of flat glazing to staircase glazing a sprinkler installation should be considered, to the flats as part of a future works programme.</p>		
<p>Section 10/12. Future works programme should consider fire stopping at every floor level in the existing ventilated shaft or alternatively inserting a door across the corridor to construct a lobby to protect the staircase. External vertical netting at this position should also be removed as part of this design.</p>		

Signed

	<p>Fire Risk Assessor</p>	<p>Date: 04/03/2024</p>
	<p>Quality Assurance Check</p>	<p>Date: 11/03/2024</p>

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

Name of property: St Mary's House 1-64

Updated: 4/3/24

Premise 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).

