



Freedom of Information Request FOI 19 98

Evacuation in high rise residential buildings

Query and response:

We are collecting information about what measures Fire and Rescue Services are taking to address the risk of serious compartmentation failure in high rise residential buildings (HRRBs) since the Grenfell Tower Fire of 14 June 2017.

Please provide electronic copies of relevant documentation (previous/new policies and/or evidence of proposed changes)

Below is the information we would like to obtain from you under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Evacuation

- a. Any evacuation plans, policies or procedures for HRRBs;

For an individual building, the responsible person is required to develop an effective evacuation plan for their building. Such plans are owned and maintained by the responsible person and therefore are not held by us.

We have various procedures and operational articles that support evacuation, and are used to provide guidance to operational commanders at fires involving HRRBs. Please see attached the following documents;

- **Strategies used for building evacuations (OA35)**
- **Evacuation of buildings on fire (OA38)**
- **Fire Residential Buildings High Rise (TOG F3.1.0)**
- **Stay Put or Total Evacuation in High Rise Building (IGN 2/2018)**

- b. Any actual or proposed amendments to existing evacuation plans, policies or procedures for HRRBs, since 14 June 2017.

All of the above documents have been developed or reviewed and updated since 2017. A review of the phase 1 report from the Grenfell inquiry is underway to consider whether our procedures are in line with the recommendations.

The responsibility for the setting, managing and amending of any evacuation plan lays with the responsible person for the building and, as such, we do not hold details of amendments to existing evacuation plans.



- c. Any national guidance (since 14 June 2017) on the obligations, under the FSO, of the responsible person of a HRRB to devise an evacuation plan for residents in the event of fire;

We can confirm that we hold the information requested. This information can be found on the National Fire Chiefs Council [website](#). As this information is publicly available, we are refusing to provide it in response to this request as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- d. Any national guidance (since 14 June 2017), to assist your FRS to devise an evacuation plan for a HRRB involved in fire?

The responsibility for devising an evacuation plan for a HRRB rests with the responsible person for that building, as such this information is not held.

2. Pre-determined attendance (PDA)

- a. Your current PDA for fighting fires in HRRBs;

Our PDA for attending fires in HRRBs is as follows (and is detailed in the attached extract from our response plan);

6 x pumps, 1 x aerial appliance, 1 x incident command unit, 3 x level two officers (plus an additional level two (evacuation) officer for high rise buildings with cladding).

For persons reported in a HRRB, a level three officer is mobilised in addition to the above.

- b. Any actual or proposed amendments to your PDA for HRRBs, since 14 June 2017.

Since 2017, our PDA has been updated to include the requirement for an additional level two officer to attend fires involving high rise buildings with cladding.

3. Multiple FSGs

- a. Any operational policies/training for dealing with multiple fire survival guidance calls (FSGs)

We are currently drafting a “Ways of Working” document on behalf of the Networked Fire Services Partnership, which will be introduced following a period of consultation. This document will aim to describe how the Partnership Control room will use Vision when dealing with multiple FSGs. Please find the draft document attached.



- b. Any actual/proposed amendments to FSG policies/training, since 14 June 2017.

We have introduced additional training in multiple fire survival guidance calls, this includes enhanced call handling training and an element of fire behaviour training. We continue to engage nationally to develop ways of working that address the sharing of information between Control rooms during multiple fire survival guidance calls.

Policy and process for dealing with the recording and sharing of incident information with the incident commander or designated officer is being developed, to include the creation of technical solutions to assist in the recording of caller location details at point of call, and to again record when the information is passed to the incident commander.