



Licensing Authority
City of London
PO Box 270
London
EC2P 2EJ

London Fire and Emergency Planning
Authority runs the London Fire Brigade

Date 13 December 2013
Our Ref 00/011166

FAO Mr P Davenport

Dear Mr Davenport

LICENSING ACT 2003

Premises: The Doll House, 7-8 Bishopsgate Churchyard, London. EC2M 3TJ

The Authority write with reference to the pending Licence Review Hearing for the above premises and would make representations to you that in our opinion, they have failed to meet the Licensing Objectives of the Licensing Act 2003 with respect to 'public safety'. This follows a number of incidents which are detailed in a statement attached. The Authority therefore support the Police application to review the premises licence.

Any queries regarding this letter should be addressed to the person named below. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the response given, please ask to speak to the Team Leader quoting our reference.

Yours sincerely,

for Assistant Commissioner (Fire Safety Regulation)
Deputy Commissioner's Directorate

Reply to Nigel Bedford.

LONDON FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF WITNESS (Criminal Justice Act 1967, Section 9, Magistrates' Court Act 1980, Section 102; Magistrates' Courts Rules 1984, Rule 70)

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of: Nigel Haines Bedford

Age if under 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18"): over18

Profession or Occupation of Witness: Fire Safety Inspecting Officer

Address: 169 Union Street London, SE10LL

This statement consisting of **3** page(s), signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated 6th December 2013

Signature of Witness:

Signature Witnessed by:

I am Nigel Haines Bedford an Inspecting Officer with the Tower Hamlets and City Fire Safety team. I am based at Shoreditch Fire Station, 235 City Road London EC1V 9EY. I have been asked to provide details of recent fire safety inspections carried out at the premises known as **The Doll House 7-8 Bishopsgate Churchyard London EC2M 3TJ**.

I have provided a short history of fire safety inspections carried out over the last two years.

On the **24th February 2012** a Peak activity Inspection was conducted at approx.. 01:30 hrs. I arrived at the main entrance of the premises to find the main entrance gate locked. I had previously been made aware of a promoted event being scheduled for this evening. Lights were on and I believed the premises to be occupied at this time. I then made my way to the rear service corridor below 55 Old Broad Street. The rear fire exit was also found to be padlocked after a few minutes a member of staff attended the locked gate and unlocked the gate allowing entry. I then raised concerns with the management of the premises over means of escape and the safe capacity for the evening's event. I explained that the premises should be restricted to a maximum of 150 persons at this time due to restricted exit width. It was noted that six members of staff were on the premises while the means of escape was secured. No further action was taken at this time as the premises were in the process of closing but agreed I would return to conduct a full audit shortly.

On the **21st March 2012** I carried out a full fire safety audit following my previous visit on the 24th February 2012. I returned to the premises with Fire Engineer Adrena Parkin-Coates (LFB). The building manager of 55 Old Broad Street informed me that the Dolls House were now having so many false fire alarms that other tenants raised serious concerns. The Dolls House alarm was isolated from the main fire alarm panel for the building. The rear gate was locked and staff were contacted by telephone to allow us entry into the premises. It was noted upon entering the premises the fire alarm was found to be in fault mode and nothing had changed since my last inspection the following issues were still outstanding

- 1) Kitchen hold open device wiring exposed
- 2) DJ station numerous wires and extension leads on the floor .

- 3) The fire alarm was still showing faults
- 4) A large mirror in a hall way had no manifestation on
- 5) The fire risk assessment was completed but not dated or signed.
- 6) None of the significant findings from the fire risk assessment had been addressed these included references to testing of the electrical supply , lack of emergency lighting , excessive use of fabric which appeared not to have been treated in the premises , No emergency plan had been developed

I questioned staff about the basic fire safety measures in the premises, their response was extremely poor. The staff were not aware of the need to unlock the exits when on the premises.

It was agreed the existing management did not meet the requirements of management level two as required by BS9999. The occupancy was to remain at **150** persons, until management level two was achieved. I advised the owner that we would be issuing an Enforcement notice on the premises and would allow three months for the works to be completed.

Note level 2 management of Fire safety requires

- Planning for changes
- Resources and Authority (responsibility for fire safety and supporting staff)
- Staff levels and contingencies providing adequate staff for emergencies, sickness and annual leave and unexpected absence
- Fire training for staff
- Work Control –repairs to the structure and reacting to work required
- Communications Procedures – Alert to fire -communicating between managers and staff, communications with the fire and rescue services .
- Maintaining and testing of fire safety systems – maintenance and testing equipment fully functioning at all times , and alternative procedures when the equipment fails or is not available.
- Liaison with the fire and rescue service when changes of abnormal occupancy occur fire growth characteristics and other relevant factors .
- Contingency planning – consideration of emergencies and incidents and how management might cope with these incidents.

The Enforcement Notice was issued on 5th April 2012.

On the **2nd June 2012** I conducted a peak activity inspection. I discussed with the manager the Enforcement Notice and was informed that these had now been complied with. I stated that capacity could not be increased. The main stair case was no longer a sterile protected escape route as a till and booth had been provided in this area.

On the **6th June 2012** I followed up the peak activity inspection visit to confirm full compliance the Enforcement Notice. I noted there was full compliance with the notice. It was also agreed that the occupancy could now be increased to 191. It was agreed occupancy could not be increased above this figure unless a BS5839 Part 1 voice fire alarm system was installed.

On the **15th May 2013** the fire authority central peak activity team carried out an inspection. It was noted that the management of the premises was no longer at the required level. The central peak activity issued a notification of deficiencies without a follow up visit. The following areas of noncompliance were identified at the time of inspection.

1. Article 9 Only a generic risk assessment was now available.
2. Article 11 The fire alarm had been activated and silenced and facilities were out of service date
3. Article 17 The fire alarm , emergency lighting and the portable fire fighting equipment were all out of test date .
4. Article 21 No staff training .

On the **15th November 2013** I was informed that the City of London Environmental Health team had visited the premises and were concerned that the fire alarm was not working. I immediately visited the site. Limited records were available and there was no access to the fire alarm panel due to stock and storage obstructing access. I then contacted Station Manager George Vost to discuss a possible issuing of an Article 31 restriction notice. The duty manager gained access to the panel and provided a photograph showing the panel in good working order. I agreed that I would return on Monday 18th to conduct a follow up inspection.

On the **18th November 2013** I was informed that the owner would not be present during this visit. Only limited records were still available. I informed the manager I would be conducting a full audit and as a result of the audit I would be issuing an Enforcement Notice. I drafted the notice to cover the following articles of the fire safety order. The Enforcement Notice was issued on 6th December 2013. The following noncompliance areas were identified.

- 1 Article 9 Risk assessment not suitable
- 2 Article 11 Management of protective measures
- 3 Article 11 Effective planning
- 4 Article 11 Record prescribed information
- 5 Article 19 Information to employees
- 6 Article 21 Training
- 7 Article 14 Fire doors to the electrical cupboard
- 8 Article 8 General fire precautions.

The above is the recent fire safety inspection history of The Doll House 7-8 Bishopsgate Churchyard London EC2M 3TJ as completed by London Fire brigade.

Most Vibrant City Limited the owners of The Doll House have demonstrated continued noncompliance to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 particularly regarding management, and have put members of the public at risk which is a primary objective of the Licensing Act.

Signature:.....

Signature Witnessed by:.....

Data Protection Act 1998: The information you have given on this form will be processed by LFEPA for the purpose of **fire and emergency planning and control**. We will keep your details secure and will not disclose them to other organisations or third parties (except contractors or suppliers working on our behalf) without your permission unless we are legally required to do so.

For more information about how we use your personal information, see our notification entry (Z7122455) www.ico.gov.uk or visit: <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk>