

## APPENDIX 2 - RCC MINUTES 21/5/18 - LAUDERDALE RESPONSE TO FIRE SAFETY REPORT

"The view of the RCC is that it would be premature to take a decision on the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems to the three tower blocks for the following reasons:

1) The agenda report was distributed five days before the RCC meeting leaving house groups, including the house groups of the three tower blocks most affected, with insufficient time to meet and discuss it or to consult with leaseholders.

2) The agenda report (paragraph 15) states that the recently completed fire risk assessments "do not support the installation of sprinklers in the Barbican tower blocks either as a suitable fire precaution or as part of a fire evacuation strategy." This is a strong argument against the installation of sprinklers but the fire risk assessments have not been published and we have therefore been unable to study the reasoning behind it.

3) The view of the City of London's Fire Safety Adviser (appendix 2 to agenda report) is that the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems should be considered when "a fire risk assessment... supports such action." Since the FRA does not support such action, the view of the Fire Safety Adviser would appear to be that sprinklers should not be considered in this case. This requires clarification.

4) The testing of flat entrance doors has not yet taken place. The agenda report (paragraph 20) states: "It is only when we have the results of the destructive testing on the doors and screens that we can finalise decisions on the future fire safety strategy for the Barbican Estate."

5) It is not yet known who would pay for the sprinklers, or for new entrance door assemblies if these were considered necessary.

6) Dame Judith Hackett's interim report on Building Regulations and Fire Safety indicates that significant changes to current regulations are likely (paragraphs 42-44 of the agenda report). The agenda report concludes (paragraph 45): "Members may take the view that the CoLC, like several others are doing, should wait until the final report is published before deciding on its future strategic approach to fire safety in relation to the Barbican Estate."

In view of the above we consider that the agenda report should be seen as a useful and informative update and that any recommendations or decisions be deferred until such as time as officers are ready to recommend a complete fire safety strategy for the Barbican Estate. We also request that house groups be given adequate time to respond to the proposed strategy before any decisions are taken."