

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney

Mayor's Office

Hackney Town Hall

Mare Street

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Philip.Glanville@hackney.gov.uk

To All:

Chief Executives
Registered Social Landlords

3 July 2017

In Confidence

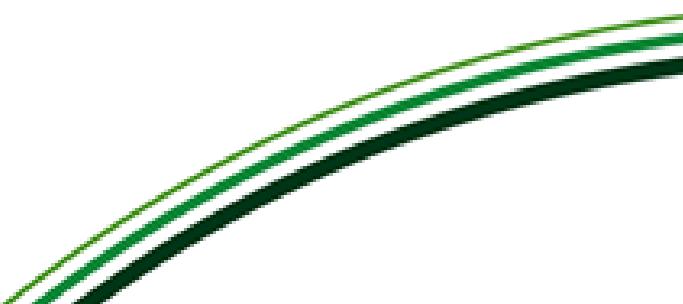
Dear Chief Executive,

In the wake of the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, every social landlord will be quite rightly focusing on the safety of its tenants and leaseholders, and paying particular attention to its fire safety measures.

In this light, I am writing to inform you of issues we have experienced with certain contractors, to give you the opportunity to check that fire safety works on your properties have been carried out to a high standard.

During 2011, Hackney Council's former ALMO, Hackney Homes, oversaw a programme of fire safety works, including installation of smoke alarms and fire alarms across a number of our properties. These works were carried out by Lakehouse PLC, through their subcontractor, Polyteck Building Services Ltd. During 2014, Hackney Council's Audit and Anti-Fraud team received allegations of fraud and overcharging relating to works carried out by Lakehouse. During subsequent detailed investigations, Hackney Council discovered that some of the fire safety work was defective, including incorrectly installed alarms and emergency lighting systems. We immediately, and as a matter of priority, ensured that these works were redone to a standard that was fully compliant with regulatory requirements and our specification, and at the contractors' own expense. Hackney also immediately notified the police, and there is an ongoing criminal investigation, as well as contemplated civil action. At all times, throughout this, our focus has been on the safety of our residents.

We have no evidence to suggest that work carried out on contracts to other councils, by Lakehouse, or its subcontractor Polyteck, was in any way at fault, so we do not wish to cause undue alarm. However, we believe that as social landlords, after the Grenfell Tower tragedy we must share any information with each other that could potentially help to keep our residents safer. It is in this context that we are writing to you, so that if you have had fire safety works carried out by either of these contractors, you have a chance to check them carefully.



If you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of our investigating officers at Michael.Sheffield@hackney.gov.uk or Patrick.SandersWright@hackney.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures side-by-side. The signature on the left appears to be "Philip Glanville" and the signature on the right appears to be "Kim Wright". Both signatures are written in a cursive, fluid hand.

Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney

Kim Wright
Group Director, Neighbourhoods & Housing