



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

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www.gov.uk/mhclg

Ms Danielle Gregory
via whatdotheyknow.com

Date: **7 March 2018**

Dear Ms Gregory

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 3662533

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 9 February 2018 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request was:

The report of the public inquiry into the collapse of the Ronan Point tower block was published in 1968. Following this, the Large Panel System buildings industry wanted to know a standard to build to. Circular 62/68 was published which said that every tower block should be able to withstand an explosive force of 5Psi (34kN/m²) It is understood that every block failed these tests at that time.

Under the Freedom of Information I would like to request:

- 1) All documents on this matter, relating to which tower blocks were tested, and what the results of those tests were for each block.*
- 2) Information on any retesting that may or may not have been done following the publication of Circular 72/68 which said that if piped gas was removed, the explosive force could be reduced to 2.5psi (17kN/m²)*

The Department may hold information within scope of your request, but to locate, retrieve, and extract it would be too costly and we are refusing this request for the reasons given below.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are allowed to refuse a request if processing it would be too costly; this is known as "exceeding the appropriate limit". In the case of DCLG, this appropriate limit is £600.00. Staff time is calculated at a rate of £25 per person per hour.

We have estimated that locating and retrieving the information would exceed this limit. It would be necessary for the Department to manually search through a substantial number of documents across several decades, including retrieving paper files from storage

However, you may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope identifying a specific date range or a specific document which would help in our search. If you do so, we will handle it as a new request under the appropriate legislation.

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
1st Floor NW, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

MHCLG FOI Team