

Head of Complaints, Members
Enquiries & Information Governance

Mr and Mrs Ismail
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m](mailto:d504946c@whatdotheyknow.co.uk)

Our ref: FOI/ E29110

Ask for: Information Governance

Date: 22/08/2017

Tel: 020 8430 2000

Fax: 020 8430 1504

Email:

information.governance@newham.gov.uk

Dear Mr and Mrs Ismail,

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for Information: Information Provided
Subject: Cladding on High-rise blocks

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We trust that the information provided is satisfactory.

For future reference we publish information on our website, including the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and summary of Freedom of Information requests and responses that may be of help to you in searching for information. Our website is mentioned above.

It is important to note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 the Council asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communication.

Request

Can you please provide me a response to following:

1. How many buildings in Newham have been refurbished with cladding?
2. When did the council started these types of refurbishment?
3. Which materials were used?
4. Was there a fire safety check?
5. Do these flats have fire sprinklers on each floor?
6. Which procedure will you follow in the event you need to remove the cladding? What are the policies in place to secure tenants rights while works are carried out (for temporary rehousing)?
7. Will they be rehoused in the same property from which they will be temporarily evacuated?
8. How long will it take to carry out those checks and replacement of the cladding? Is there a panel in place to decide the forthcoming actions?

9. Please provide a list of companies Which have a contract with you with regards to cladding and the costs involved?
10. Can you ascertain whether the tenants will be back in their properties irrespective of their type of contract or any other circumstances?

Response

1. Newham Council owns 27 residential buildings with cladding. Three of these have Aluminium Composite Material cladding.
2. You can search for this information on the Newham Council website (search under 'cladding' or specifically under that name of the tower block property:
Building Control application: <https://pa.newham.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=BuildingControl>

Planning application: <https://pa.newham.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>
3. This information is searchable via the above links specifically in the planning application documents.
4. Yes
5. According to building regulations, sprinklers are only a requirement in blocks of 30 storeys and above. The largest block in Newham consists of 24 storeys. We are, however, currently carrying out a review of all safety measures in our tower blocks. We are working with the London Fire Brigade, depending on the results of this review, we will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure residents are kept safe.
6. As mentioned above, we are currently carrying out a review of all safety measures in our tower blocks. We are working with the London Fire Brigade and depending on the results of this review, we will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure residents are kept safe.
7. There are currently no plans for evacuation.
8. The council has hired a number of independent fire safety consultants to further examine the internals, cladding, and check the fire separation of their tall buildings. In addition to this, the government has appointed an advisory panel of building and fire safety experts to consider the outcome of the previous cladding tests. The panel has advised further large scale testing must be undertaken. The council is awaiting further guidance on this and anticipate more advice from the government will be issued to all councils following analysis of the results. We will take whatever action is necessary based on this.
9. We do not centrally hold this information. To compile this information for the purpose of this FOI would exceed the appropriate limit as set out in the FOI Act. Under the Freedom of Information Act the Council has a right to refuse a request for information

held if the cost of complying with a request exceeds the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for local authorities is £450 or 2.5 days or 18 hours. We believe in this case such an exemption applies and has decided to refuse your request for information under section 12(1) of the Act.

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

10. N/A – please see answer 7.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team on (020) 8430 2000 or email us at information.governance@newham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Complaints, Members Enquiries and Information Governance
Newham Council