

Property & Asset Management

Director: Aiden McManus

Sycamore House (Room 301), Town Hall Complex, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF

Strictly Private & Confidential

Megan Ingles

Via email: request-407674-528786f9@whatdotheyknow.com

Ask for: Glenn Miller

Our Ref: FOIX291479

Your Ref:

Email: Glen.Miller@walthamforest.gov.uk

Direct line: 020-8496-6791

Direct fax: N/A

Date: 9th June 2017

Dear Megan Ingles,

I am writing to confirm that the Council has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 19th May 2017 as follows:

This request for information is an attempt to seek reassurance about the safety of public buildings in the light of the findings revealed in the Inquiry commissioned following the collapse of a school building wall in Edinburgh and subsequent closure of 17 schools.

Please answer the following for each PFI/PPP schemes in the local authority area treating each scheme as a separate request.

- 1) Please provide all documents showing how your organisation has responded to the findings contained in the report on Edinburgh Schools Construction: including, but not limited to memos, emails, minutes, reports.
- 2) I would like to understand the expertise and resource committed by your organisation to the management and oversight of PFI schemes from procurement through to ongoing contract operation. Please provide documents relating to the PFI Team(s) allocated to each project its makeup and structure of the team during each project phase. This may comprise terms of reference, organisation chart, post titles and role profiles.
- 3) Provide the deed of appointment for the Independent Certifier and any other documents setting out the scope of that role. Please confirm the level of indemnity insurance and liability period.
- 4) Please confirm whether your organisation employed a member of the Institute of Clerk of Works or an inspector of similar standing and assigned them to each construction site. If someone in this role was employed please confirm their level of qualification, the salary associated with this role and how much time was allocated to per project/site.
- 5) Please provide a list of all enforcement or improvement notices served; investigations carried out and reports commissioned into fire safety (include dates and specify who commissioned or issued these). Please provide copies of all items listed.
- 6) Provide details of all attempts to make deductions relating to structural defects for each project. Confirm the amount, what it was for, and when the deduction was made.

The following information has been provided by the department responsible for the service delivery.

- 1) As soon as the Authority Representative for the three school PFI contracts became aware of the incident at the Edinburgh school, she escalated this to the senior management so a decision could be made. A senior manager then contacted the representatives for all the three contracts asking for reassurance. The same issue was also raised at the school meetings. A



confirmation was received regarding the safety of a new school at the meeting itself. For the other 8 schools across two contracts, a report was received confirming that all our schools were structurally safe. Emails, meeting minutes and report are not attached since these relate to third parties and capture more information than those relating to this issue. Only the email sent by LBWF colleague to other LBWF colleagues is attached herewith since this is internal. But this is a proof to the fact that LBWF reacted immediately.

- 2) LBWF PFI contracts are approximately 16, 12 and 9 years into the operational phase. Information regarding the construction phase is no longer available.
- 3) Please find attached the following documents. No Deed of Appointment is available in respect of Frederick Bremer.
 - Independent Certifier's Deed of Appointment – Grouped Schools
 - Independent Certifier Collateral Warranty – Lammas School.
- 4) We can confirm that no member of the Institute of Clerk of Works were employed by LBWF in relation to the projects.
- 5) Our records indicate that LBWF has received no enforcement or improvement notices from either the HSE or the London Fire Brigade.
- 6) LBWF has made no attempts to make deductions relating to structural defects for each project, as the terms of the contract do not permit for this.

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should contact us via e-mail at: Information.Officer@walthamforest.gov.uk or by post:

The London Borough of Waltham Forest
Town Hall
Forest Road
London
E17 4JA

Please remember to quote the reference number: FOIX291479 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Council.

Yours sincerely,



Glenn Miller

Assistant Director of Property & Asset Management