

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

17-18143

Date sent

14/09/2017

Subject

Fire Safety Assessments

Details of enquiry

Under the Freedom of Information Act please answer the below questions about fire safety,


1. Has your organisation complied with the NHS Improvement letter of 24 June 2017, and follow up communications, requiring you to have an inspection of all inpatient areas carried out by your local fire and rescue service?
2. Have you carried out your own checks or worked with independent investigators to assess safety since the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June?
3. Please attach all and any reports etc prepared as a result of inspections whether by the fire service or others. If precise locations are sensitive, please consider whether any concerns can be addressed by redacting the location details
4. What are you doing to mitigate any risks which have been identified? When will any work identified in the reports be completed?

Please fill in the answers directly into the attached Excel sheet. Anything that won't go into the sheet, please add as an additional answer by email

I would refer you to this recent blog by the information commissioner, which states there is likely to be a compelling public interest in releasing fire safety information:

<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/2017/08/02/information-commissioner-encourages-disclosure-of-fire-safety-information-in-light-of-the-grenfell-tower-tragedy/>

Response Sent

Name	Question 1) Has your organisation complied with the NHS Improvement letter of 24 June 2017, and follow up communications, requiring you to have an inspection of all inpatient areas carried out by your local fire and rescue service?	Question 2) Have you carried out your own checks or worked with independent investigators to assess safety since the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June?	Question 3) Please attach all and any reports etc prepared as a result of inspections whether by the fire service or others. If precise locations are sensitive, please consider whether any concerns can be addressed by redacting the location details	Question 4) What are you doing to mitigate any risks which have been identified? When will any work identified in the reports be completed?
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	The Trust only provides outpatient services and does not operate any inpatient areas.	Yes. Initial checks were undertaken in the period immediately following 14th June and a report presented to Trust Board on 25th July 2017.	 U:\FCI Attachments & Charts\FCI 17-	Following presentation of the report the Trust has decided to undertake a review of fire risk assessments at all sites in Q3 2017/18. These have been commissioned and will report in September 2017. No required remedial action identified to date.

Board of Directors :

Item :

Title: Fire Safety and Compliance Update

Purpose:

Following tragic recent events at Grenfell Tower, the Trust Board have requested an additional update on fire safety and compliance within the Trust. The purpose of this report is to assure the Board about the current status of the Trust's fire safety and compliance.

This report focuses on the following areas:

- Risk

For : Noting

From : David Wyndham Lewis, Director of Technology and Transformation

Fire Safety and Compliance Update

Provided by David Wyndham Lewis, Director of Technology and Transformation
Covering to 14th July 2017.

Introduction

Following tragic recent events at Grenfell Tower, the Trust Board have requested an additional update on fire safety and compliance within the Trust.

Estate Fabric and Building Cladding

Following the fire at Grenfell Tower, the Trust has recently provided supplementary reports on its fire safety and compliance to the Department of Health and NHS England. In particular the Trust was required to evaluate any building where similar external materials have been used.

The review of our current sites identified the Garden Wing temporary building as the only property under the trust management where cladding of a similar design and use is present. It has been noted that the building is not of the height sufficient to fall into the high rise category. Architects commissioned by the Trust have provided the specification of materials used and have confirmed that the building meets the regulatory compliance on the internal fabric of half hour fire zoned protection. The exact detail of the relevant fire standards of the cladding has yet to be confirmed. Work is ongoing to confirm this.

Statutory and Mandatory Fire Compliance Checks

An internal review of our statutory and mandatory fire compliance checks has confirmed as below:

- Fire risk assessments last carried out December 2016.
- All weekly fire alarm testing is logged and up to date with the relevant fire log book held on site.
- TFI fire alarm service engineers have carried out the first quarter statutory fire inspection on the 22nd June 2017 as per “HTM 05-01 Fire safety in the NHS”.
- All fire extinguishers tested and checked 5th January 2017
- The sprinkler system service engineers last inspected 15th May 2017.
- Thyssen lifts last inspection was on the 14th June 2017.

The above indicates we are in compliance with the statutory and mandatory fire checks.

Additional Check by Fire Officer and Fire Drill

It was noted as part of the review that, while not overdue for a fire drill, a drill had not been conducted recently.

The Trust’s Fire Consultant was therefore commissioned to perform the following actions in early July:

- Carry out an inspection of all Trust sites
- To remove a section of cladding from the Garden Wing and to carry out a combustion test
- To review the Fire Risk Assessment
- To carry out a fire evacuation drill at the Tavistock Clinic to the standard drill procedure

These works were carried out in early July with the fire drill occurring on Tuesday 4th July.

We are awaiting the results on the inspection and cladding test, however initial verbal feedback from the fire officer has been positive with no concerns raised.

The fire drill final lesson learned document is in draft and will be available for WMT review in August.

Early indicators are as below :

- Disabled users were correctly left in safe zones of the building. Further work needed to confirm fire wardens are able to stay with them throughout a drill or fire event.
- When the building is busy the evacuation zone can spill over into the road unless users move down the road in either direction. Further work needed to support movement of people down the pavement and to control road traffic.
- Step down from the Fire Officer or Wardens. Purchase of a loudhailer so everyone can hear.
- Issues identified in maintaining communication between fire wardens throughout the exercise. Purchase of additional mobile radios for the fire wardens.