



High Rise Blocks Evacuation Strategy

‘Stay Put’ Policy

Following extensive fire safety upgrade work within your building, including new fire doors, smoke alarm systems, emergency lighting and the installation of a fire sprinkler system, your building is considered to be **LOW RISK**.

As your landlord and building manager, the Council’s guidance to all residents living in the building is to stay put unless your flat is being affected by fire or smoke. This guidance is based on the fire protection provided in your building. Although fires in flats do take place they rarely spread beyond the flat where the fire started. By staying put you reduce the risk of entering a smoky corridor unnecessarily and potentially being overcome by smoke.

What is the ‘Stay Put’ policy?

The **‘Stay Put’** policy encompasses purpose-built flats in buildings. Where residents are not in an area directly impacted by fire should stay inside their purpose-built flat with doors and windows shut.

When a fire occurs within your purpose-built flat, or in a common part of the building, you are advised to leave the premises and call the fire and rescue service.

Residents who are not directly affected by the fire should remain in their flat unless and until told otherwise by the fire and rescue service. Those residents who wish to leave are not legally required to stay put, but this would be contrary to the Council’s policy.

Why is it used?

There are several reasons why the ‘Stay Put’ approach has been adopted for your building as an evacuation process.

Firstly, where concrete floors and walls are used to construct homes along with compliant fire doors, it creates a protective ‘box’ or compartment against fire, ensuring that it is contained and enabling the fire and rescue service to have the time to extinguish the fire. Whilst concrete might be unsightly to look at, it has very good fire-resistant properties which limits the transfer of heat and provides structural integrity for longer periods of time.

Secondly, for firefighters to do their job safely and quickly, clear corridors and stairwells help significantly. If people can be kept safe from fire by the compartmentation of their individual flats, fire and rescue services can focus their efforts on extinguishing the fire without the immediate need for large scale evacuation or panic by residents.

The Council's clear guidance is for residents to stay put unless their flat is being affected by fire or smoke. This guidance is robustly supported by the active and passive fire protection provided in your building. By staying put you reduce the risk of entering a smoky corridor unnecessarily and potentially being overcome by smoke.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the **stay put** policy to your building, please do not hesitate to contact your Tenancy Management Officer.