

APPENDIX B

VAHT statement following the fire at Grenfell Tower

Posted Wednesday, 21 June 2017 by Jill Spurr

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A sample of cladding from Friars House has failed the Government tests.

While we understand concerns, particularly in light of events at Grenfell Tower, we wish to reassure people that this is being acted on. While we do not own the building, we are working with the management company, Moreland Estate Management, Bucks Fire and Rescue, AVDC and DCLG. Our residents safety is of absolute importance to us.

The fire strategy for Friars House has been reviewed with Bucks Fire and Rescue. Smoke extraction vents, fire alarms and means of escape have been checked, and will continue to be checked regularly. In addition, we are carrying out testing of smoke alarms in each flat on 12 July. We are keeping residents updated.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, they should contact Andrew Rysdale at the Trust.

Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower last week, understandably fire safety, particularly for people living in multi-storey accommodation, has come under much scrutiny.

While the majority of our flats are four storeys or lower, we absolutely understand that some of our residents may have concerns, and we would like to assure them that their safety and wellbeing is of paramount importance to us.

We work closely with Bucks Fire Service to maintain fire safety in our buildings. Fire risk assessments are reviewed annually for higher risk buildings and every two years for those that are lower risk. We also make monthly visual inspections of communal areas to ensure fire escape routes are clear and emergency lighting is in working order.

We have applied cladding to some regenerated buildings, including Silverdale, Wycliffe End and Walton Court Centre. The product used is fire retardant, and where insulation is applied behind cladding, we have used mineral wool which is also fire retardant.

It is impossible not to be moved by an event of the magnitude of Grenfell Tower, and even now we are reviewing our fire safety policy to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose. We will of course comply with any changes to best practice or fire regulations that may come out of lessons learned from the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

If a resident has any concerns about the safety of their building, they should contact Stephen Pithers, who is our Health and Safety Manager, and who will be happy to assist them.

We send our sincerest condolences to all affected by this terrible tragedy.