Dear Resident

Fire safety update – 03 August 2017

I am sure many of you may have heard via the media, that the results of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)’s so called ‘end to end’ or ‘whole system test’ have been made public. We received these results ourselves last night. The results that came back indicate that the cladding system at Little Venice Towers and other local authority areas, do not meet the government’s current interpretation of building regulation requirements. However, we want to reassure you that the results of these tests mean you do not have to evacuate your block. This is because of the additional fire safety measures we have put in place.

As you know, since the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, we have been working to identify ways to make your building safer. In particular, as set out in our last letter, we have looked at how we could replace the outer ACM cladding layer rather than the whole cladding system. This could be done much more quickly and at less inconvenience to you and would retain the fireproof Rockwool insulation in place.

We are working with an independent cladding specialist to look at the current structure. The feedback is that it could support the highest rated cladding panel, with some minor additional works. The final report from the specialist is due back later this month.

Knowing this, we have already started the process of purchasing replacement cladding. This cladding is of the highest safety specification (with Rockwool) having been tested already, and passed, by the government’s testing agency. The current cladding will be removed and replaced as quickly as possible and we will confirm the timescales with you once we have finalised the details. The replacement of cladding will be at no cost to leaseholders.

As you know, when London Fire Brigade completed its full inspection, they said that “they are satisfied that CityWest Homes, who are responsible for fire safety, are putting in place appropriate fire safety measures to mitigate the risks from fire”. This has not changed as a result of the tests and we would like to reiterate you can remain in your homes.

Alongside this, I want to assure you that we have also taken action following the London Fire Brigade audits to address their concerns. This includes the following:

- a specialist is on-site doing a detailed assessment for the retrofitting of sprinklers
- wardens are on-site 24/7 carrying out fire checks
• bulk rubbish storage has been moved away from the building
• we have kept the estate office open
• run a programme of fire door checks
• delivered a number of other safety works as described in our letters to you.

Balcony decking

In addition, the work continues on the removal of the balcony decking. You can still view the new balcony flooring system in our show flats, 70 and 78 Wilmcote House, on Friday 11 August from 14.00pm to 16.00pm. This flooring was chosen because it is safer and not combustible. It is the right weight for the balconies, is low maintenance, slip-free and has a 20 year guarantee. We look forward to hearing your feedback.

If you are unable to see this in the show flat, an example of the new flooring is also still available to view in the Warwick Community Hall from Friday 4 August.

We also ask you to continue to be mindful and do everything you can to prevent fire risks in your home. Further advice on this can be found at www.london-fire.gov.uk/SafetyAtHome.asp

If you have any questions, we are happy to help. For more information, you can visit our website at www.cwh.org.uk, email info@cwh.org.uk or speak to our dedicated team at the Little Venice estate office. The team will be available Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm with late opening until 6.30pm on Wednesdays.

Once again we would like to thank you for your support and we will continue to keep you informed with regular updates as matters progress.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Rachael Robathan
Cabinet Member for Housing

Barbara Brownlee
Executive Director
Growth, Planning and Housing

Jonathan Cowie
Chief Executive
CityWest Homes

[Signatures]