**Coroner’s recommendations pursuant to Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules and DCLG response - 2013**

**Inquest into deaths resulting from Lakanal House fire 3 July 2009**

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| **Issue** | **Recommendation** | **DCLG response** |
| Fire safety, fire fighting and search and rescue | There is insufficient clarity about advice to be given to residents of high rise residential buildings in case of fire within the building.  DCLG should publish consolidated national guidance in relation to the “stay put” principle and its interaction with the “get out and stay out” policy, including how such guidance is disseminated to residents. | Prior to the inquest report, the Department had been working with the LGA on detailed national guidance on the risk assessment process and the range of issues to be considered if the risk of fire to residents of purpose built blocks of flats, including high rise, is to be assessed and managed adequately.  The guidance was published in Summer 2011.  The guidance covered the requirements of the Housing Act, and addresses in some detail the rationale for the stay-put principle and provides detailed advice on the fire safety information that should be made available to residents in light of findings of a risk assessment.  The then Secretary of State’s response to the coroner’s inquest considered that this recommendation had been discharged by these actions. |
| The Government should give consideration to requiring high rise residential building owners or occupiers to provide relevant information on or near the premises, such as premises information boxes or plates. Such information must be accessible by and tailored to the requirements of the fire and rescue service and kept up to date by the premises owner or occupier. | It was considered that a range of options were available to ensure relevant data from inspections under s7(2)(d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act is captured and made available to firefighting crews, including through mobile data terminals in fire appliances. Where additional or specific information is considered necessary to assist firefighting crews, fire and rescue authorities should work closely with individual building ownersto ensure the provision and maintenance of readily accessible, on-site information |
|  | Consideration be given to review of Generic Risk Assessment 3.2 “High Rise Firefighting” to provide consolidated national guidance. | The Generic Risk Assessment guidance on High Rise Firefighting was under review at the time of the coroner’s report and was informed by the Rule 43 recommendations. It included advice to Incident Commanders to inform decisions on evacuation, should it become clear during an incident that the “stay put” principle is no longer tenable. |
| Fire risk assessmentpursuant to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 | It is recommended that the government provide clear guidance on the scope of inspection for fire risk assessment purposes in high rise residential buildings. | The Local Government Association’s guidance – Fire Safety in Purpose Built Flats’ - published in 2011 provides detailed national guidance on the risk assessment process and range of issues to be considered if the risk of fire to residents of purpose built blocks of flats, including high rise, is to be assessed and managed adequately. The scope of this guidance has been drawn more widely to include the requirements of the Housing Act 2004 and takes a comprehensive and pragmatic approach to managing risk effectively within the context of both the Housing Act 2004 and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. |
| Retro fit of sprinklersin high rise resi buildings | DCLG should encourage providers of housing in high rise residential buildings containing multiple domestic premises to consider the retro fitting of sprinkler systems. | The Department wrote to all social housing providers about this following the Rule 43 recommendation from the Coroner of the inquests into the firefighter deaths which occurred at Shirley Towers in Southampton in April 2010 which encouraged social landlords to consider installing sprinkler systems.  The then Secretary of State’s response to the coroner’s inquest considered that this recommendation had been discharged by these actions. |
| Building Regulations and Approved Document B | The inquest considered the Approved Document B guidance relevant to when the building work was undertaken which was the edition incorporating 2000 and 2002 amendments. Approved Document B guidance as updated in 2006, coming into force in 2007.  The Coroner recommended that DCLG review Approved Document B to provide clear guidance. | DCLG had commissioned research to feed into a future review of Approved Document B with the expectation that this would lead to the publication of a new edition of the Approved Document in 2016/17. The revised guidance would be drafted in accordance with a new ‘style guide’ for Approved Documents.  Since 2013:  Research has been undertaken into technical issues associated with Part B.  Work has been underway with bodies managing window installation competent persons’ schemes to develop further guidance on Building Regulations requirements for window installers, including on fire safety.  A survey of users of Part B was published in February 2017. This confirmed the value of Approved Document B but made some specific recommendations for how the Approved Document could be presented better which have been taken into account in the rework.  Work was underway on simplifying the guidance in Approved Document B. The Government is looking at the position with the guidance in the light if the Grenfell Tower fire and the Prime Minister’s commitment to look at wider issues. |

**Coroner’s recommendations pursuant to Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules and Government response – 4th Feb 2013**

**Inquest into deaths of Alan Bannon and James Shears**

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| **Issue** | **Recommendation** | **Response** |
| Fire safety, fire fighting and search and rescue | Guidance and clarification is required with regard to search procedures as set out in Technical Bulletin 1/97 (Breathing Apparatus Command and Control Procedures). | The guidance was under review at the time of the Coroner’s report and was reviewed further in the light of the Coroner’s recommendations to take these into account. New operational guidance was issued by DCLG and CFRA on the 14th January 2014. Additionally the CFRA copied his response to the coroner to all fire and rescue services which details the response to the recommendations. The responsibility for operational effectiveness together with training and operational response lies with each respective fire and rescue authority. |
| A review should be undertaken to ensure that teaching and training of fire fighting techniques used to contain and cool compartment fires, on the one hand, fully complement techniques designed to attack and extinguish fires on the other. | Individual fire and rescue authorities have responsibility for training and teaching against nationally agreed guidance. The National Operational Guidance Strategy Board was asked to consider the recommendations and make any changes deemed to be necessary. National Operational Guidance published fire and firefighting guidance 1st edition 01/05/15 and on its 3rd edition 05/04/17 which captures gas cooling techniques. |
|  | A review should be undertaken to ensure the adequacy of teaching and training of tactical ventilation procedures in compartment fires. | Individual fire and rescue authorities have responsibility for training and teaching against nationally agreed guidance. The National Operational Guidance Strategy Board was asked to consider the recommendations and make any changes deemed to be necessary. National Operational Guidance published fire and firefighting guidance 1st edition 01/05/15 and on its 3rd edition 05/04/17 which captures tactical ventilation (forced and natural). |
|  | Fire and rescue authorities should consider the implementation of measures to reduce the risk associated with fallen cables. | Individual fire and rescue authorities have responsibility for training and teaching against nationally agreed guidance. The National Operational Guidance Strategy Board was asked to consider the recommendations and make any changes deemed to be necessary. Guidance was issued in the response from the CFRA to the coroner rule 43 letter recommending the use of anti-entanglement straps, cutters and training for crews to reduce the risks and captured in the fires in the built environment. |
|  | Fire and rescue authorities and social housing providers should consider the Rule 43 recommendations made following the inquest into fire fighter fatalities at Harrow Court. | The recommendations were drawn to the attention of fire and rescue authorities and social housing providers. |
| . | A review of training given to control staff should be undertaken by all fire and rescue authorities in the light of guidance given in generic risk assessment. | Individual fire and rescue authorities have responsibility for training and teaching against nationally agreed guidance. The National Operational Guidance Strategy Board was asked to consider the recommendations and make any changes deemed to be necessary. A guidance document for control staff is being formulated. |
|  | There should be an obligation (eg through amending Article 38 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 205 or other legislation for signage to be provided to indicate floor levels both in stairwells and lift lobbies in high risk premises to assist the emergency services; and signage to indicate flat numbers and emergency exits in high risk premises should be placed at a low level to increase visibility in smoke conditions. | The Government had no plans to amend the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order or to introduce new legislation. It considered that building owners needed to determine the fire precautions necessary in the light of the risk assessment for the premises for which they are responsible.  Following the Lakanal House fire, the Department had been working with the LGA on detailed national guidance on the risk assessment process and the range of issues to be considered if the risk of fire to residents of purpose built blocks of flats, including high rise, is to be assessed and managed adequately.  The guidance was published in Summer 2011. |
| Building Regulations | Building regulations should be amended to ensure that all cables not just fire resistant cables are supported by fire resistant cable supports. This could be achieved by an amendment to BS 7671 (20808) Institute of Electrical Engineers Wiring regulations. | Amendment 3 of the 17th edition of the standard (BS 7671:2011+A3:2015 - IET Wiring Regulations Seventeenth Edition) published in January 2015 and which came into effect on 1 July 2015 included the requirement that wiring systems in escape routes shall have fire-resisting supports. |
| Retro fit of sprinklersin high rise residential buildings | DCLG should encourage providers of housing in high rise residential buildings containing multiple domestic premises to consider the retro fitting of sprinkler systems. | The Department wrote to all social housing providers about this following the Rule 43 recommendation from the Coroner of the inquests into the firefighter deaths which occurred at Shirley Towers in Southampton in April 2010 which encouraged social landlords to consider installing sprinkler systems. |