

Heart & Lung Centre Fire Safety Report



Agenda Item No: 7.3

Trust Board Report

Meeting Date:	29 January 2018
Title:	Heart & Lung Centre Fire Safety Report
Executive Summary:	This report provides an update with regards to Fire Safety at the Heart & Lung Centre in response to the NHSI requirements after Grenfell Tower fire.
Action Requested:	For information and to accept the Fire Safety Group recommendations.
Report of:	Keith Massen, Fire Safety Manager on behalf of Gwen Nuttall, Chief Operating Officer
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Links to Trust Strategic Objectives	
Resource Implications:	Revenue: Capital: possible Capital implications to be determined Workforce: Funding Source:
Equality and Diversity Assessment	(Include here details as to the equality and diversity impact of the recommendation (if any), specifically in relation to the Protected Characteristics under the Public Sector Equality Duty, namely age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation)
Risks: BAF/ TRR (describe risk and current risk score)	Currently sits on the Trust Risk register as an Amber Risk
Public or Private: (with reasons if private)	Public
References: (eg from/to other committees)	Ratified by Fire Safety Group
Appendices/ References/ Background Reading	Risk Mitigation 4 Stage Plan
NHS Constitution: (How it impacts on any decision-making)	In determining this matter, the Board should have regard to the Core principles contained in the Constitution of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Equality of treatment and access to services  High standards of excellence and professionalism  Service user preferences  Cross community working  Best Value  Accountability through local influence and scrutiny

The Grenfell Tower fire broke out on 14th June 2017 at the 24 -storey Grenfell Tower block in West London. It is believed that the fire started accidentally in a fridge freezer on the fourth floor. The rapid growth of the fire is thought to have been accelerated by the building exterior cladding, 71 residents lost their lives as a consequence.

The immediate response from the Cabinet Office (DCLG), following the fire, required all public sector estates, because of the potential flaws in aluminium composite cladding (ACM) to carry out building safety checks, and where identified to send a sample to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) for testing.

NHS Improvement (nominated by DCLG) wrote to all trusts and foundation trusts in June to ask for urgent fire checks to be carried out. RWT identified and submitted two cladding samples for testing (UECC and Heart and Lung Centre). Whilst awaiting the outcome, this trust implemented extra fire safety measures and liaised with the fire service.

The test results concluded that only the sample cladding panel from 'The Heart and Lung Centre' had failed. A further eight Trusts had buildings with cladding installed similar to that of Grenfell.

RWT submitted its initial 'risk mitigation' plan (4 Stage Plan) to NHSI providing written evidence that sufficient measures had been implemented to minimise the risk to patients, visitors and staff from the risks related to cladding (ACM) and after consultation with fire service and NHSI agreed that the safest and most appropriate course of action was to continue to treat patients in the building.

A further more comprehensive plan was submitted on the 25th September 2017 providing salient information appertaining to the training of staff, fire response, mass evacuation procedures, removal of cladding, Trust Board analysis and an independent report from a third party accredited fire engineer. (See summary below).

The recommendation from the report (endorsed by the Fire Service) is still to continue mitigating the risk with an augmented fire service response, and not to remove any cladding until the investigation report into the cause of the Grenfell Tower fire is fully understood

Fire Safety Group endorsed this recommendation at their meeting on the 21st of November 2017.

Note:

The Grenfell Tower Public Enquiry will include an independent review of the Building Regulations and Fire Safety, led by Dame Judith Hackett the outcome is due to be released in spring 2018, however an interim report is anticipated to be available later this year.

Stage 1 – Extra fire safety measures implemented to mitigate the risk, during the testing phase

- Application of parking Restrictions outside of the building
- Revised controls for waste management to prevent build u of combustibles
- Inspection of all fire escape routes
- Increased level of security patrols and surveillance
- Review of all associated fire risk assessments
- Review Trust fire response procedures
- Enhanced fire service response to the building (4 tenders and aerial ladder)
- CEO endorsement following meeting with West Midlands Fire Service

Stage 2 – Additional fire safety measures, after being informed that the cladding had failed

Implementation of robust management and training strategy, including:

- Refresher Training for – Trust Fire Responders, Fire Wardens, ward staff
- Further meetings with the fire service
- Clinical fire evacuation exercises
- Updated fire evacuation procedures

In addition:

The Trust Board were requested determine the balance of risk against patient services being delivered in premises identified with deficient cladding –

- Trust Board (following discussions with fire service) decided to continue to provide patient services.

Stage 3 – Risk Mitigation Plan

Development of a costed plan for mitigating the risk associated with unsuitable cladding, until resolved. Plan includes:

- Emergency procedures for mass evacuation
- Independent analysis from third party fire engineer
- Written endorsement from fire service
- Recommendation for cladding to remain in situ until the outcome of the Grenfell fire is understood.

Stage 4 – Review and Response

- Still awaiting formal response from NHSI

Trust Risk Register 4375 Escalated by FSG - meeting 26/07/2017 – score 12 (H Amber)