

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

PROPERTY ASSESSED:
Church Street Block 25 - 31
Thurnscoe
South Yorkshire

S63 0QX



UPRN: AG83004B

Inspection Date: 08/11/2022

Validation Date: 21/11/2022

Valid to: 21/11/2024

FRA completed by: Pennington Choices

FRA Completed For: Berneslai Homes



Executive Summary

FRA Risk Rating:

Tolerable



FRA Action by Type

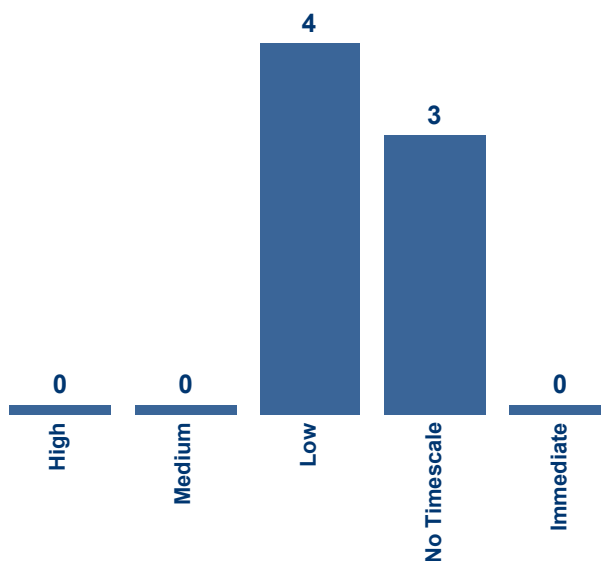
Recommendations:

3

Actions:

4

FRA Action Count by Priority



Premises Risk Rating: **Tolerable**


Reassessment Priority: **Medium - 2 Years**

Recommended evacuation strategy for this building is: **Stay Put**

On satisfactory completion of all remedial works the risk rating of this building may be reduced to: **Tolerable**

FRA - Summary

Responsible Person	Amanda Garrard (Chief Executive Berneslai Homes).
Property Designation	General needs
Management Extent	Non Managed – eg GN
No of Floors	2
No of Flats (if applicable)	4
Ground floor Area (m2)	250
Total Area of all floors (m2)	500

FRA Completed By:	Grant Barker
FRA Type:	Type 3
QA Validation Date:	21/11/2022
QA Carried Out By:	Piotr Iwan
Validator's Signature:	

Low

4


Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
M1	Common Area Fire Doors	Low	21/Nov/2023


Finding/Observation	Action/Recommendation
<p>The residents storeroom fire doors appear to be original fixtures from when the premises was first constructed and were identified as notional FD30 fire doors (note, without combined intumescent cold smoke seals). This is not in-line with the Home Office Guide benchmark standard for a low-rise premises as flat entrance doors open directly into the common area stairway and easily available smoke control is not provided. Although there is no means for residents to open the high-level windows in the common area (see Question K11), it is considered that the Fire and Rescue Service would simply break out the glazing via a ladder externally if necessary, but clearly there will be a delay in this happening. It was observed that the panels above the residents storeroom fire doors appear to be low-density timber and only two hinges were present on each fire door.</p>	<p>The panels incorporated into the residents storeroom fire door frames appears to be low-density timber board. It is not known if there is fire-resistant glazing or any other suitably fire resisting material behind the timber board. Investigate whether or not a suitably fire resisting material is present behind the panels and whether it would achieve a minimum of 30-minutes fire resistance. If there are no suitable materials present or they do not meet this standard, upgrade the construction using an EUROCLASS A1 or A2 certified board product suitably secured into place on the storeroom facing side. The urgency of when this should be performed will be dictated by the presence of any potential ignition sources within the storerooms (e.g., light fittings etc.) If potential ignition sources exist, then this should be performed within 12-months, along with the installation of a third centrally located fire rated hinge and batwing smoke seals incorporated into the fire door frame. If no potential ignition sources exist, then the proposed works can be performed in the very long term, such as during a major refurbishment of the premises, at which point a third central fire rated hinge and batwing smoke seals should also be installed to both residents storeroom fire doors. If it is decided that a contractor will be appointed to carry out the necessary works, it is recommended that any such contractor should be a passive fire protection specialist accredited by a UKAS third party scheme such as FIRAS, Q-MARK etc.</p>


Image: M11



Findings & Actions Summary

Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
O1	Fire Safety Signs & Notices	Low	21/Nov/2023
Finding/Observation		Action/Recommendation	
<p>The Home Office Guidance advises that fire exit signage is not considered necessary within a block provided with only a single stairway, and it has not been provided.</p>		<p>It is not known whether the fire-fighters switch positioned on the front elevation of the premises is still in use (it is thought by the assessor that it was originally provided to isolate an historic internal fluorescent lighting scheme installed at the time of the original construction in 1969). It is possible that it is no longer required. If the switch is no longer required, to avoid any potential confusion in circumstances where South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service are attending the premises, the switch should be removed, lest they believe that the electrics in the common area are isolated when they are not. In the event that the switch is still in use, Berneslai Homes should provide appropriate conspicuous signage displayed next to it (as required by Article 37 of the FSO2005). The format of the signage should be a red background with the words 'Firefighters Switch' in white. A pictogram should also be shown on the signage, which is usually that of a Firefighters helmet.</p>	
<p>Image: O11</p> 			

Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
Q4	Measures To Limit Fire Spread And Development	Low	21/Nov/2023
Finding/Observation		Action/Recommendation	
Roof voids are checked annually by Berneslai Homes, and records are maintained centrally. The roof void access hatch in the common areas was galvanised steel and is considered to be suitable for continued use. From visual observations made from the second step on a portable set of step ladders, it was observed that there was a masonry wall present in the roof void between the top floor flats and the common areas.		A hole has been made around a roof truss to pass cables into a top floor flat. Repair this breach and any others not readily visible from the roof void access hatch to a minimum of 60-minutes fire resistance. It is recommended that if a contractor is appointed to make the necessary repairs, they should be a passive fire protection specialist accredited by a UKAS third party scheme such as FIRAS, Q-MARK etc.	
Image: Q41			
			

Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
Q5	Measures To Limit Fire Spread And Development	Low	21/Nov/2023
Finding/Observation		Action/Recommendation	
There were holes present in the embedded electrical meter cabinets where cables have been passed through into the flats.		Survey the internal areas of all embedded electrical meter cabinets and make repairs were required where cables have been passed through. It is suggested that the repair can possibly be made using a fire-resistant mineral wool batt, which is suitably sealed with a fire-resistant mastic which would allow access in the future providing it was reinstated by a competent person.	
<div>Image: Q51</div> <div></div>			

No Timescale

3


Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
F1	Lightning	No Timescale	
Finding/Observation		Action/Recommendation	
A lightning protection system was not observed, however the premises are at a similar height to the other structures within the surrounding area and is not at a higher elevation or in a particularly exposed position, therefore the Assessor considers that the fire risk without a lightning protection system fitted is tolerable and one is not considered essential.		Recommend management undertake a risk assessment of the building to determine if lightning protection is required.	

Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
K11	Means Of Escape	No Timescale	
Finding/Observation		Action/Recommendation	
There are manually openable windows at first floor level that can be used to control smoke levels, however they are at such height that they cannot be currently opened by the Fire and Rescue Service other than by use of a ladder positioned internally or by breaking the glazing out from a ladder externally.		The assessor has been consulted on behalf of HMGOV by those appointed to produce new guidance to replace the current Home Office Guide and has been asked to comment on draft guidance for smaller blocks (i.e., no more than three storeys and with no more than six flats). This block falls into the scope of the draft guidance and the draft guidance states that stairway ventilation is not considered essential for these types of block. On approval and circulation of the new Home Office guidance, Berneslai Homes should consult it and determine whether the above statement in the draft form of the guidance has become official guidance, and if so, no further action need be taken. If the new guidance continues to recommend that a form of stairway smoke control should be provided in blocks of this size as per the current revision, then in the longer term, a means to open at least some of these high-level windows should be provided. Due to their height, this would most likely be one or more manual winding handles at ground floor level. Note, no timescale has been assigned to this recommendation as the time scale for the issuing of the new guidance that should be consulted is beyond the control of Berneslai Homes.	

Image: K111



Findings & Actions Summary

Ref.	Category	Priority	Complete By
P7	Means Of Giving Warning In Case Of Fire	No Timescale	
Finding/Observation		Action/Recommendation	
A Grade D, LD3 fire alarm system was observed within flat 25 which was sampled and this is considered to be a reasonable provision for a general needs flat. A hard-wired smoke alarm was present in the hallway and a battery-operated stand-alone smoke alarm was also present next to it.		Although the current revision of the Home Office Guide advises that an LD3 system is appropriate for general needs flats, it is PCL policy that an LD2 system should be installed in the flat and any other flats similarly affected as per British Standards recommendations. It is recommended that this is performed in the longer term, e.g. during the next programmed EICR.	
Image: P71			
			

Reassessment Priority	Medium - 2 Years
Responsible Person	Amanda Garrard (Chief Executive Berneslai Homes).
BAFE Cert	CHES077

General Information

UPRN	AG83004B
Address	Church Street Block 25 - 31 Thurnscoe South Yorkshire
Postcode	S63 0QX
Fire Risk Assessor	Grant Barker
Date of Inspection	08/11/2022
Checked by	Piotr Iwan
Reassessment Date	08/11/2024

General Information

Property Designation	General needs
Property Type	Purpose built block of flats
No of Floors	2
No of Flats (if applicable)	4
Ground floor area (m2)	250
Total area of all floors	500
Building Description	The premises was purpose built as flats. It is known that the premises was originally constructed in the 1969. There are two entry/exit doors, offering alternative directions of escape at ground floor level. There is a single stairway in the internal common area. There are no passenger lifts present. There is no ancillary usage (the premises is all residential).
Building Construction	The ground floor is ground bearing concrete. The floor construction between levels is a form of concrete construction. There is one internal stairway of concrete construction. There is a pitched tiled roof. From visual observation only from the ground floor level, the exposed surface of external walls gives the appearance of masonry construction with spandrel panels on some elevations. Note - this is not the FRAEW as required by the Fire Safety Act 2021.
Extent of common areas	Hallway, stairway and first floor landing.
Areas of the building to which access was not available	None.

If applicable state which flats were
sample inspected

Flat 25.

1. The Occupants

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
10	Management Extent	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Non Managed – eg GN		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
11	Details of any onsite management (hours onsite etc.)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Employees of the Responsible Person are not normally present at this premises, although they may visit from time to time in the course of their day to day duties.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
12	Person managing fire safety in premises	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Ryan Beardshall - Fire Safety Officer, Berneslai Homes.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
13	Person consulted during the fire risk assessment	
Answer		Finding/Observation
None, there was no employee presence during the site survey.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
14	Number of occupants (maximum estimated)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Exact numbers of occupants cannot be realistically calculated without an intrusive poll, however it is assumed that the estimated number of occupants might be 16. This is made up of 2 residents and 2 visitors per flat.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
15	Approximate maximum number of employees at any one time	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Estimated to be 2 at any one time.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
16	Number of members of the public (maximum estimated)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
None, the premises is residential and not open to the public.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
17	Identify any people who are especially at risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- sleeping occupants- disabled occupants- occupants in remote areas and lone workers- young persons- others	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Residents. As this is a general needs premises the residents may have (in line with the general population) sensory, mobility or other impairments to some degree. Elderly persons might be present. It is expected that young persons and children might be present as part of the families residing within the flats. Lone working would take place as might remote working e.g. roof voids. No dangerous or hazardous substances are normally kept on the premises.		

2. Fire Safety Legislation

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
21	The following fire safety legislation applies to these premises	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
22	The above legislation is enforced by	
Answer		Finding/Observation
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
23	Other key fire safety legislation (other than Building Regs 2000)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Housing Act 2004		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
24	The other legislation referred to above is enforced by	
Answer		Finding/Observation
The Local Authority.		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
25	Guidance used as applicable to premises and occupation	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Home Office (September 2021) Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
26	Is there an alteration or enforcement notice in force?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		None known or apparent.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
27	Fire loss experience (since last FRA)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		None known or apparent.

A. Electrical Ignition Sources

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
A1	Is the fixed electrical installation periodically inspected and tested, (include dates if known)?	5 year fixed wire testing in communal areas are on a 5 year schedule. These works are carried out by our partners. All certificates are stored on PIMSS and can be requested at any time from the electrical compliance officer. As and when rewires take place, emergency lighting is being fitted in the stairwells if required.
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		5 year fixed wire testing in communal areas are tested/inspected on a 5 year schedule. These works are carried out by Berneslai Homes service partners. All certificates are stored on PIMSS and can be requested at any time from the Electrical Compliance Officer. As and when rewires take place, emergency lighting is being fitted in the stairwells if required.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
A2	Is PAT testing in common areas carried out?	Carried out annually by partners on a rolling schedule.
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		No portable electrical appliances are provided by Berneslai Homes. No portable electrical appliances were observed in the common areas at the time of the premises survey.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
A3	Is there a policy for personal electrical appliances (consider restrictions of communal supply points such as outlets and T pin outlets)?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No significant issues or observations made at the time of the premises survey.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
A4	Is the use of adapters and leads limited?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No extension leads were present in the common areas at the time of the premises survey.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
A5	Are there any PV cells installed and do they have the appropriate isolation systems and signage to assist the fire and rescue service?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		There were no PV installations present at the time of the premises survey.

B. Smoking Policies

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
B1	Are there suitable arrangements to prevent fire as a result from smoking?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Berneslai Homes have a no smoking policy in place within the common areas. Residents and their visitors are permitted to smoke within their individual flats and away from the building.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
B2	Is the policy being adhered to and are "No smoking" signs provided in the common areas?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No evidence of smoking was observed within the common areas at the time of the premises survey. Signage present.

Images

Image: B21



C. Arson

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
C1	Are premises secure against arson by outsiders? (Please state how)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		The assessor considers the area to be a normal risk in respect of arson. Key entry from the outside at both entrances.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
C2	Are bins secured or fire loading stored in a suitable location? (Please state bin type, location, if and how it is secured)	Blocks of flats that have issues with the storage of bins are waiting bin storage areas. A three year plan is in place to build bin storage areas for all flats with issues.
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		The premises benefits from large rear gardens with refuse vehicle access available directly. Wheelie bins were placed against the rear metal fence which is an appropriate distance away from the premises.

D. Portable Heaters And Heating Installations

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
D1	If used, is the use of portable heaters regarded as safe?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		There were no portable heaters observed in use within the common areas at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
D2	Are fixed heating systems maintained annually?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		There are no fixed heating systems present within the common areas. It is understood that the heating systems within the flats are inspected and maintained by NPS under a service contract. All certificates are stored on PIMSS and can be requested at any time from the Fire Safety Officer. Any faults are dealt with on a 24 hour priority order.

E. Cooking

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
E1	Are reasonable measures in place to prevent fires as a result of cooking, including replacing filter(where necessary)?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		There are no communal kitchens provided in the common areas.

F. Lightning

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
F1	Does the building have a lightning protection system?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		A lightning protection system was not observed, however the premises are at a similar height to the other structures within the surrounding area and is not at a higher elevation or in a particularly exposed position, therefore the Assessor considers that the fire risk without a lightning protection system fitted is tolerable and one is not considered essential.

G. House-Keeping

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
G1	Are combustible materials kept away from any sources of ignition, including gas and electrical intake cupboards?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No significant issues or observations identified at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
G2	Are the escape routes kept clear of items combustible materials or waste and free of any trip hazards?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		It is understood that In low rise premises belonging to Berneslai Homes, cleaning of the common areas is the responsibility of the residents. General housekeeping standards within the common areas was considered reasonable and no items in contravention of the Berneslai Homes policy were observed at the time of the premises survey. No other observations were made.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
G3	Are mobility scooters or electric vehicles stored in the means of escape? If yes has an assessment been undertaken in line with the NFCC "Mobility Scooter Guidance for Residential Buildings"?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		None observed at the time of the premises survey.

H. Hazards Introduced By Contractors

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
H1	Is there satisfactory control over works carried out in the building by contractors (e.g. hot work permits)?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Berneslai Homes have a 'No Hot Works' policy, a safer alternative must be used. This also applies to external contractors.

I. Dangerous Substances

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
I1	If dangerous substances are used, has a risk assessment been carried out as required by the Dangerous Substances and Explosives Atmospheres Regulations 2002 and are they stored correctly?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		There were no dangerous or flammable substances within the common areas or in close proximity to the premises that could be readily observed at the time of the premises survey.

J. Other Significant Hazards

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
J1	Are all issues deemed satisfactory? [1]	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
J2	Are all issues deemed satisfactory?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		

K. Means Of Escape

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K1	Is the escape route design deemed satisfactory? (Consider current design codes)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Travel distances are within those recommended within the Home Office Guide.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K2	Is the fire-resisting construction (including any glazing) protecting escape routes and staircases of a suitable standard and maintained in sound condition?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No significant issues or observations made at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K3	Is there adequate provision of exits (including exit Widths) for the numbers who may be present?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		There are two entry/exit doors, offering alternative directions of escape at ground floor level.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K4	Are doors on escape routes easily opened? (and are sliding or revolving doors avoided?)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Thumb-turn locks are provided internally on the front and rear exit doors. Residents will be very familiar with the door opening arrangements as they use them regularly, and therefore no particular signage was considered necessary to indicate the thumb-turns locations or operating method in an emergency.


Images

Image: K41



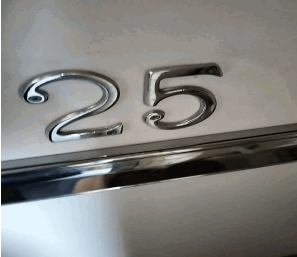
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K5	Do final exits open in the direction of escape where necessary?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		Not considered necessary where less than 60 occupants will be present at any one time.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K6	Are travels distances satisfactory? (consider single direction and more than one direction, property risk profile and occupancy characteristics)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Travel distances are within those recommended within the Home Office Guide.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K7	Are there suitable precautions for all inner rooms?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		None present in the common areas.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K8	Are escape routes separated where appropriate?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		Single stairway, hallway and associated first floor landing only.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K9	Are corridors sub-divided where appropriate?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		Single stairway, hallway and associated first floor landing only.
Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K10	Do escape routes lead to a place of safety?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		There are two unrestricted directions of escape available from both entry/exit doors to the premises.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K11	Are the stairs and/or lobbies provided with adequate ventilation? (If considered satisfactory, please state provision)	Annual service or AOV's carried out by partner on a rolling schedule. All certificates are stored on PIMSS and can be requested at any time from the Fire Officer.
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		There are manually openable windows at first floor level that can be used to control smoke levels, however they are at such height that they cannot be currently opened by the Fire and Rescue Service other than by use of a ladder positioned internally or by breaking the glazing out from a ladder externally.
Images		
<p>Image: K111</p> 		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
K12	Is there any other issues that could affect the means of escape, for example plastic conduit/loose cables not secured by fire rated fastening?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		A minor instance was observed next to the front elevation stairway window which appears to be associated with the Firefighters switch (see Question O1). Due to its position and length, it was not considered to be of any concern. Other conduit present had steel fixings and other than as stated above, no other significant observations made at the time of the premises survey.

L. Flat Entrance Doors

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
L1	Are the sample inspection flat entrance door or doors in good condition and appropriately fire rated?	Flat fire doors are inspected every six months to check function of the door and highlight any maintenance requirements. All reports are available upon request from the Fire Safety Officer. Cross corridor doors are inspected every 3 months in High Rise Blocks and every six months in low rise blocks months to check function of the door and highlight any maintenance requirements. All reports are available upon request from the Fire Safety Officer.
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		This Fire Risk Assessment should not be considered as fulfilling the requirements of a full fire door survey. Where defects were readily observable from the common area side of the flat entrance doors, or where residents allowed access, any deficiencies will be commented upon. The assessor has compared the flat entrance doors against the recommendations contained within the current revision of the Home Office Guide to assess suitability. The resident in flat 25 allowed access and no issues were identified. There were no labels or plugs present on the flat entrance door denoting its fire resistance certification. It was identified as a timber fire door with a thin inner and outer coating to allow cleaning to take place. The assessor considered that the door was a self-closing notional FD30S fire door and is suitable for continued use. No issues were observed with any of the other flat entrance doors when viewed from the common area sides.
Images		
<p>Image: L11</p> 		

M. Common Area Fire Doors

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles	
M1	Are all common area fire door and frames in good condition and appropriately fire rated?	Flat fire doors are inspected every six months to check function of the door and highlight any maintenance requirements. All reports are available upon request from the Fire Safety Officer. Cross corridor doors are inspected every 3 months in High Rise Blocks and every six months in low rise blocks months to check function of the door and highlight any maintenance requirements. All reports are available upon request from the Fire Safety Officer.	
Answer		Finding/Observation	
No		The residents storeroom fire doors appear to be original fixtures from when the premises was first constructed and were identified as notional FD30 fire doors (note, without combined intumescent cold smoke seals). This is not in-line with the Home Office Guide benchmark standard for a low-rise premises as flat entrance doors open directly into the common area stairway and easily available smoke control is not provided. Although there is no means for residents to open the high-level windows in the common area (see Question K11), it is considered that the Fire and Rescue Service would simply break out the glazing via a ladder externally if necessary, but clearly there will be a delay in this happening. It was observed that the panels above the residents storeroom fire doors appear to be low-density timber and only two hinges were present on each fire door.	
Action/Recommendation		Priority	Due Date
The panels incorporated into the residents storeroom fire door frames appears to be low-density timber board. It is not known if there is fire-resistant glazing or any other suitably fire resisting material behind the timber board. Investigate whether or not a suitably fire resisting material is present behind the panels and whether it would achieve a minimum of 30-minutes fire resistance. If there are no suitable materials present or they do not meet this standard, upgrade the construction using an EUROCLASS A1 or A2 certified board product suitably secured into place on the storeroom facing side. The urgency of when this should be performed will be dictated by the presence of any potential ignition sources within the storerooms (e.g., light fittings etc.) If potential ignition sources exist, then this should be performed within 12-months, along with the installation of a third centrally located fire rated hinge and batwing smoke seals incorporated into the fire door frame. If no potential ignition sources exist, then the proposed works can be performed in the very long term, such as during a major refurbishment of the premises, at which point a third central fire rated hinge and batwing smoke seals should also be installed to both residents storeroom fire doors. If it is decided that a contractor will be appointed to carry out the necessary works, it is recommended that any such contractor should be a passive fire protection specialist accredited by a UKAS third party scheme such as FIRAS,Q-MARK etc.		Low	21/Nov/2023

Images

Image: M11



N. Emergency Lighting

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
N1	If emergency lighting is provided, is the coverage sufficient and in good repair? (Internal and external)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		This is a two-storey general needs premises and the layout is straight forward. Specific circumstances do not appear to be present, such as a lack of windows in the common area, omission of reasonable levels of municipal street lighting etc, therefore it is considered under the current Home Office Guidance that emergency escape lighting is not essential for this premises, and it has not been provided.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
N2	If EL not provided, is borrowed/artificial lighting sufficient for escape? (Internal and external)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Based upon a visual survey of the existing municipal street lighting scheme.

O. Fire Safety Signs & Notices

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
O1	Is there adequate provision of visible fire safety signs and notices? (Consider directional, exits, stairs, fire action notices, Fire door keep shut, fire equipment and 'do not use lift' signage)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		The Home Office Guidance advises that fire exit signage is not considered necessary within a block provided with only a single stairway, and it has not been provided.

Action/Recommendation	Priority	Due Date
It is not known whether the fire-fighters switch positioned on the front elevation of the premises is still in use (it is thought by the assessor that it was originally provided to isolate an historic internal fluorescent lighting scheme installed at the time of the original construction in 1969). It is possible that it is no longer required. If the switch is no longer required, to avoid any potential confusion in circumstances where South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service are attending the premises, the switch should be removed, lest they believe that the electrics in the common area are isolated when they are not. In the event that the switch is still in use, Berneslai Homes should provide appropriate conspicuous signage displayed next to it (as required by Article 37 of the FSO2005). The format of the signage should be a red background with the words 'Firefighters Switch' in white. A pictogram should also be shown on the signage, which is usually that of a Firefighters helmet.	Low	21/Nov/2023

Images

Image: O11



Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
O2	Wayfinding Signage (buildings over 11 metres in height). Are there clear markings for flat and floor recognition provided?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		

P. Means Of Giving Warning In Case Of Fire

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P1	Is a reasonable fire detection and fire alarm system provided in the common areas, where necessary?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		A fire alarm system has not been provided within the common areas. Due to the purpose-built nature of the premises with non-combustible materials forming fire compartments, the Home Office Guide advises that a fire alarm system in the common area is not considered necessary for this type of low-rise purpose-built block.


Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P2	If installed, is the common area AFD adequate for the occupancy and fire risk?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P3	If not installed, are the premises deemed safe without a common area AFD system?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P4	If there is a communal fire detection and fire alarm system, does it extend into the dwellings?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P5	Where appropriate, has a fire alarm zone plan been provided?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P6	Where appropriate, are there adequate arrangements for silencing and resetting an alarm condition?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P7	If applicable, is a separate domestic hard-wired smoke/heat alarm within the flats installed to a suitable standard?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		A Grade D, LD3 fire alarm system was observed within flat 25 which was sampled and this is considered to be a reasonable provision for a general needs flat. A hard-wired smoke alarm was present in the hallway and a battery-operated stand-alone smoke alarm was also present next to it.
Images		
<p>Image: P71</p> 		


Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
P8	If applicable (Sheltered scheme) is the smoke detection within the flats monitored by an alarm receiving centre/on site scheme manager via a telecare system?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		


Q. Measures To Limit Fire Spread And Development

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q1	Is there adequate levels of compartmentation between floors and between flats and the common escape routes?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		This Fire Risk Assessment should not be considered as fulfilling the requirements of a full fire compartmentation survey. Where defects were readily observable, any deficiencies will be commented upon. The general provision of fire compartmentation in the areas where access was possible was considered reasonable and other than as stated within Question Q4, no other issues or significant observations were made at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q2	Are hidden voids appropriately enclosed and/or fire-stopped? (consider above suspended ceilings)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Unknown		There are no suspended ceilings are present. Due to the non-destructive nature of a Type-3 fire risk assessment survey, the assessor cannot comment on 'hidden voids' etc. Where defects were readily observable, any deficiencies will be commented upon. The general provision of fire compartmentation in the areas where access was possible was considered reasonable and other than as stated within Question Q4, no other issues or significant observations were made at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q3	Is there adequately fire protected service risers and/or ducts in common areas, that will restrict the spread of fire and smoke?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		None present in the areas accessed at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles	
Q4	Is compartmentation maintained in the roof space?		
Answer		Finding/Observation	
No		Roof voids are checked annually by Berneslai Homes, and records are maintained centrally. The roof void access hatch in the common areas was galvanised steel and is considered to be suitable for continued use. From visual observations made from the second step on a portable set of step ladders, it was observed that there was a masonry wall present in the roof void between the top floor flats and the common areas.	
Action/Recommendation		Priority	Due Date
A hole has been made around a roof truss to pass cables into a top floor flat. Repair this breach and any others not readily visible from the roof void access hatch to a minimum of 60-minutes fire resistance. It is recommended that if a contractor is appointed to make the necessary repairs, they should be a passive fire protection specialist accredited by a UKAS third party scheme such as FIRAS, Q-MARK etc.		Low	21/Nov/2023
Images			
Image: Q41			
			

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles		
Q5	Are electrics, including embedded meters, enclosed in fire rated construction?			
Answer		Finding/Observation		
No		There were holes present in the embedded electrical meter cabinets where cables have been passed through into the flats.		
Action/Recommendation		Priority	Due Date	
Survey the internal areas of all embedded electrical meter cabinets and make repairs were required where cables have been passed through. It is suggested that the repair can possibly be made using a fire-resistant mineral wool batt, which is suitably sealed with a fire-resistant mastic which would allow access in the future providing it was reinstated by a competent person.		Low	21/Nov/2023	
Images				
Image: Q51				
				

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q6	As far as can reasonably be ascertained, are fire dampers provided as necessary to protect critical means of escape against passage of fire, smoke and products of combustion in the early stages of a fire?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		A full investigation of the design of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems is outside the scope of this fire risk assessment. No fire dampers were observed during the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q7	Is there reasonable limitation of linings to escape routes that might promote fire spread?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No significant issues or observations made at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q8	Are soft furnishings in common areas appropriate to limit fire spread/growth?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		No soft furnishing appear to have been provided by Berneslai Homes and none were present in the common areas at the time of the premises survey.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q9	Does the premises have any external balconies, cladding or materials which may promote external fire spread?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Unknown		The FRAEW as required by The Fire Safety Act 2021 and Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 is contractually excluded from the scope of this fire risk assessment. Berneslai Homes is aware of the requirements to undertake a Fire Risk Appraisal of External Wall (FRAEW) construction and cladding of existing blocks of flats based upon the BSI Code of Practice PAS 9980:2022. As Berneslai Homes are aware of the requirements to undertake a Fire risk appraisal of external wall (FRAEW) construction, the assessor considers that no further reminders are appropriate, other than to provide information in a goodwill manner and without prejudice, that there are features of the external walls that Berneslai Homes may wish to include in the FRAEW of this premises.

Images

Image: Q91



Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q10	Has a note been prepared of the external walls of the building and details of construction materials used? Does the note include and identify the level of risk that the design and materials used?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Unknown		Refer to Question Q9.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q11	Does the External wall note include any mitigating circumstances that may have been taken to reduce the risk?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Unknown		Refer to Question Q9.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q12	Has the responsible person reviewed the external wall note on a regular basis and revised it if there have been any significant changes in the external walls.	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Unknown		Refer to Question Q9.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Q13	Are all other fire spread/compartmentation issues satisfactory?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		No other significant issues were identified or other observations were made at the time of the premises survey.

R. Fire Extinguishing Appliances

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
R1	if required, is there reasonable provision of accessible portable fire extinguishers?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		There are no fire extinguishers installed within the common area and none are recommended. The provision of fire extinguishers and other forms of fire-fighting equipment in common parts for use by residents is problematic. Such equipment should only be used by those trained in its use. It is not considered appropriate or practicable for residents in a block of flats to receive such training. Neither is it expected that residents should need to tackle a fire in their flats to make their escape. Indeed, to obtain a fire extinguisher located in the common parts for this purpose would involve the person leaving their flat in the first place, from which they should leave the premises and call the Local Fire and Rescue Service.

S. Relevant Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
S1	Are there any automatic fire suppressant systems on site?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
S2	Are there any fixed fire fighting mains within the premises?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
S3	If any other relevant systems / equipment is installed, state type of system and comment as necessary	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		

T. Procedures And Arrangements

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T1	Recommended evacuation strategy for this building is	
Answer		Finding/Observation
	Stay Put	Fire action notices displayed are the standard Berneslai Homes versions that describe a policy that aligns more with a 'Stay-Safe' policy, which is considered by most housing providers to be more appropriate and the assessor supports this.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T2	Has a competent person(s) been appointed to assist in undertaking the preventative and protective measures including in house checks?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
	Yes	Ryan Beardshall - Fire Safety Officer, Berneslai Homes.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T3	Are there appropriate documented fire safety arrangements and procedures in place in the event of fire?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
	Yes	Fire action notices will suffice to inform residents locally.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T4	Are there suitable arrangements for liaison and calling the Fire Service?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
	Yes	It is considered that this would happen if the residents are guided by the fire action notices and common knowledge.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T5	Are there suitable fire assembly points away from any risk?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
	Yes	The residents can gather a safe distance away from the premises. It is not considered reasonably practicable to provide fire assembly point signage in public areas not under the control of Berneslai Homes.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T6	Are there adequate procedures in place for the evacuation of disabled people who are likely to be present?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
	Yes	Person Centred Fire Risk Assessments have been carried out on all tenants in Independent Living Schemes and are reviewed on an annual basis for changes. Any issues identified during the assessment are referred to the Fire Safety Officer. In General needs blocks of flats only tenants that have been identified as having a vulnerability are offered an assessment. All assessments are stored on Share Point.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T7	Are staff nominated and trained on the use of fire extinguishing appliances?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Answer refers to times when employees of the Responsible Person might be present during their day to day duties. All employees receive fire safety awareness training at induction commensurate with their role and this is periodically refreshed as part of their ongoing general health and safety training. The training includes fire extinguisher identification however there is no expectation that employees would use these unless they felt that it was safe to do so. Records are maintained centrally.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
T8	Are staff nominated and trained to assist in evacuation (Where applicable e.g. Offices, supported schemes)?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
N/A		There is not normally a Berneslai Homes employee presence at this premises.

U. Training

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
U1	Do staff receive adequate induction and annual refresher fire safety training? (To include fire risks in the premises, fire safety measures in the building, action in the event of fire and on hearing alarm, location and use of fire extinguishers, calling the fire service)	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		All employees receive fire safety awareness training at induction commensurate with their role and this is periodically refreshed as part of their ongoing general health and safety training. The training includes fire extinguisher identification however there is no expectation that employees would use these unless they felt that it was safe to do so. Records are maintained centrally.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
U2	Are employees nominated to assist in the event of fire given additional training?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Answer refers to times when employees of the Responsible Person might be present during their day to day duties. All employees receive fire safety awareness training at induction commensurate with their role and this is periodically refreshed as part of their ongoing general health and safety training. The training includes fire extinguisher identification however there is no expectation that employees would use these unless they felt that it was safe to do so. Records are maintained centrally.

V. Testing And Maintenance

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
V1	Are all fire safety provisions for the building (AFD, Emergency Lighting, sprinklers etc.) routinely tested and maintained?	Six monthly service is carried out by partner on a rolling schedule. All certificates are stored on PIMSS and can be requested at any time from the Fire Officer. Weekly tests are carried out in house, records are kept but are sometimes not kept on site. The records of these tests can be requested anytime from the Fire Officer. Any faults are dealt with on a 24 hour priority order
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Refer to policy principle.

W. Records

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
W1	Is all routine testing and staff training including fire drills suitably recorded and available for inspection?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		Fire drills are not appropriate for this type of residential occupancy. Refer to policy principle regarding training.

X. Premises Information Box

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
X1	Is a Premises Information Box located at the premises accessible to the Fire and Rescue Service, secure from unauthorised access and kept up to date?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
No		A premises information box has not been provided and one would not be considered necessary under Berneslai Homes policy unless any specific circumstance were present that necessitated one being provided.

Y. Engagement With Residents

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Y1	Has all Fire Safety information & procedures been disseminated to the residents?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		The assessor has observed evidence that this occurs, such as posters etc that explain when and why fire door surveys, fire risk assessments etc are taking place. It is also understood that resident engagement meetings are held periodically.

Z. Any Other Information

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Z1	Are all issues deemed satisfactory? [1]	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		The submission of to the Responsible Person constitutes neither a warranty of future results by the assessor, nor an assurance against risk. This fire risk assessment represents the assessors best judgement, and may be based, in part, on information provided by others (either verbally, in writing or electronically). Although the assessor had no reason to doubt the validity of such information at the time of the production of this fire risk assessment, no liability whatsoever is accepted for the accuracy of such information supplied by others, which was taken in good faith.

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
Z2	Are all issues deemed satisfactory?	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Yes		

ZAAR. Assessment Risk Ratings

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
ZAAR1	<p>Likelihood of Fire</p> <p>Low: Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.</p> <p>Medium: Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).</p> <p>High: Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in likelihood of fire</p>	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Medium		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
ZAAR2	<p>Potential Consequences of Fire</p> <p>Slight harm: Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant.</p> <p>Moderate harmful: Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury (including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.</p> <p>Extreme harm: Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants likely to involve multiple fatalities</p>	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Slight Harm		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
ZAAR3	<p>Premises Risk Rating</p> <p>Trivial: No action is required and no detailed records need be kept</p> <p>Tolerable: No major additional controls required. However, there might be a need for improvements that involve minor or limited cost.</p> <p>Moderate: It is essential that efforts are made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where moderate risk is associated with consequences that constitute extreme harm, further assessment might be required to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the priority for improved control measures.</p> <p>Substantial: Considerable resources might have to be allocated to reduce the risk. If the building is unoccupied, it should not be occupied until the risk has been reduced. If the building is occupied, urgent action should be taken.</p> <p>Intolerable: Building (or relevant area) should not be occupied until the risk is reduced</p>	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Tolerable		

Ref.	Question	Policy Principles
ZAAR4	On satisfactory completion of all remedial works the risk rating of this building may be reduced to:	
Answer		Finding/Observation
Tolerable		

Risk Assessment - Type 3



Flat 25.

1. Inspection Details

11	Has a Type 3 dwelling survey been performed?	Yes
12	Which flat number was accessed?	Flat 25.
13	Is there appropriate detection in place?	Unknown

2. What Detection Is In Place?

21	Mains Smoke Detector in Hall	Yes
22	Main Smoke Detector in Lounge	No
23	Mains Heat Detector in Kitchen	No
24	Main Detection in Bedroom(s)	No
25	Battery Smoke in hall	Yes
26	Link Heat detector in hall	N/A
27	Other	N/A

3. General

31	If on the ground or 1st floors, is there secondary means of escape from each habitable room? Door or window of at least 0.33m ² with no single dimension smaller than 450mm.	Yes
32	Does the layout of the flat meet the relevant Building Regulations (Travel distance, protected entrance hall, alternative escape etc.?)	Yes
33	Are there any extraction fans that are not vented directly to an external wall?	No
34	Are there any missing internal doors?	No
35	Is the fixed electrical test in date?	Yes
36	Are there any signs of hoarding?	No
37	Is the cooker in a safe position?	Yes
38	Assessor's Miscellaneous Comments or observations - please consider compartmentation within the flat or any tenant alterations?	None.

The following simple risk level estimator is based on a more general health and safety risk level estimator of the type contained in BS 8800:

Likelihood of fire	Potential consequences of fire		
	Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm
Low	Trivial	Tolerable	Moderate
Medium	Tolerable	Moderate	Substantial
High	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable

Taking into account the fire prevention measures observed at the time of this risk assessment, it is considered that the hazard from fire (likelihood of fire) at these premises is:

Medium

In this context, a definition of the above terms is as follows:

Low: Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.

Medium: Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).

High: Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in likelihood of fire.

Taking into account the nature of the building and occupants, as well as the fire protection and procedural arrangements observed at the time of this fire risk assessment, it is considered that the consequences for life safety in the event of fire would be:

Slight Harm

In this context, a definition of the above terms is as follows:

Slight harm: Outbreak of fire unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant.

Moderate harmful: Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury (including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but it is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.

Extreme harm: Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants likely to involve multiple fatalities.

Accordingly, it is considered that the risk to life from fire at these premises is:

Tolerable

A suitable risk-based control plan should involve effort and urgency that is proportional to risk. The following risk-based control plan is based on one advocated by BS 8800 for general health and safety risks:

Risk Level	Action and time table
Trivial	No action is required and no detailed records need be kept.
Tolerable	No major additional controls required. However, there might be a need for improvements that involve minor or limited cost.
Moderate	It is essential that efforts are made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where moderate risk is associated with consequences that constitute extreme harm, further assessment might be required to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the priority for improved control measures.
Substantial	Considerable resources might have to be allocated to reduce the risk. If the building is unoccupied, it should not be occupied until the risk has been reduced. If the building is occupied, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Building (or relevant area) should not be occupied until the risk is reduced.

(Note that, although the purpose of this section is to place the risk in context, the above approach to fire risk assessment is subjective and for guidance only. All hazards and deficiencies identified in this report should be addressed by implementing all recommendations contained in the following action plan. The fire risk assessment should be reviewed regularly.)



Life Safety Fire Risk Assessment Certificate of Conformity

This certificate is issued by the organization named in Part 1 of the schedule in respect of fire risk assessment provided for the person(s) or organization named in Part 2 of the schedule at the premises and / or part of the premises identified in Part 3 of the schedule.

Schedule:

Part 1a	Name & Address of Certified Organisation:
	Pennington Choices, Broofield House, Grimsditch Lane, WA4 4EA
Part 1b	BAFE registration number of issuing Certified Organization:
	102119
Part 1c	SSAIB 3rd Party Certificate Number:
	CHES077
Part 2	Name of Client:
	Amanda Garrard (Chief Executive Berneslai Homes).
Part 3a	Address of premises for which the fire risk assessment was carried out:
	Church Street Block 25 - 31 Thurnscoe South Yorkshire S63 0QX
Part 3b	Part or parts of the premises to which the fire risk assessment applies:
	Common Parts only (not dwellings, where applicable)
Part 4	Brief description of the scope and purpose of the fire risk assessment:
	Life Safety (as per agreed Specification)
Part 5	Effective date of the fire risk assessment:
	08/11/2022
Part 6	Recommended date for reassessment of the premises:
	08/11/2024
Part 7	Unique reference number of this certificate:
	107267

Signed for and on behalf of the issuing Certificated Organization:

James Hutton

Dated: 11/21/2022

Appendix 1. Action Details

Ref.	Category	Priority	Comments	Recommendation	Quantity	To Be Completed By	Photo Ref.
F1	LIGHTNING	No Timescale	A lightning protection system was not observed, however the premises are at a similar height to the other structures within the surrounding area and is not at a higher elevation or in a particularly exposed position, therefore the Assessor considers that the fire risk without a lightning protection system fitted is tolerable and one is not considered essential.	Recommend management undertake a risk assessment of the building to determine if lightning protection is required.			
K11	MEANS OF ESCAPE	No Timescale	There are manually openable windows at first floor level that can be used to control smoke levels, however they are at such height that they cannot be currently opened by the Fire and Rescue Service other than by use of a ladder positioned internally or by breaking the glazing out from a ladder externally.	The assessor has been consulted on behalf of HMGGOV by those appointed to produce new guidance to replace the current Home Office Guide and has been asked to comment on draft guidance for smaller blocks (i.e., no more than three storeys and with no more than six flats). This block falls into the scope of the draft guidance and the draft guidance states that stairway ventilation is not considered essential for these types of block. On approval and circulation of the new Home Office guidance, Berneslai Homes should consult it and determine whether the above statement in the draft form of the guidance has become official guidance, and if so, no further action need be taken. If the new guidance continues to recommend that a form of stairway smoke control should be provided in blocks of this size as per the current revision, then in the longer term, a means to open at least some of these high-level windows should be provided. Due to their height, this would most likely be one or more manual winding handles at ground floor level. Note, no timescale has been assigned to this recommendation as the time scale for the issuing of the new guidance that should be consulted is beyond the control of Berneslai Homes.			K111

Ref.	Category	Priority	Comments	Recommendation	Quantity	To Be Completed By	Photo Ref.
M1	COMMON AREA FIRE DOORS	Low	<p>The residents storeroom fire doors appear to be original fixtures from when the premises was first constructed and were identified as notional FD30 fire doors (note, without combined intumescent cold smoke seals). This is not in-line with the Home Office Guide benchmark standard for a low-rise premises as flat entrance doors open directly into the common area stairway and easily available smoke control is not provided. Although there is no means for residents to open the high-level windows in the common area (see Question K11), it is considered that the Fire and Rescue Service would simply break out the glazing via a ladder externally if necessary, but clearly there will be a delay in this happening. It was observed that the panels above the residents storeroom fire doors appear to be low-density timber and only two hinges were present on each fire door.</p>	<p>The panels incorporated into the residents storeroom fire door frames appears to be low-density timber board. It is not known if there is fire-resistant glazing or any other suitably fire resisting material behind the timber board. Investigate whether or not a suitably fire resisting material is present behind the panels and whether it would achieve a minimum of 30-minutes fire resistance. If there are no suitable materials present or they do not meet this standard, upgrade the construction using an EUROCLASS A1 or A2 certified board product suitably secured into place on the storeroom facing side. The urgency of when this should be performed will be dictated by the presence of any potential ignition sources within the storerooms (e.g., light fittings etc.) If potential ignition sources exist, then this should be performed within 12-months, along with the installation of a third centrally located fire rated hinge and batwing smoke seals incorporated into the fire door frame. If no potential ignition sources exist, then the proposed works can be performed in the very long term, such as during a major refurbishment of the premises, at which point a third central fire rated hinge and batwing smoke seals should also be installed to both residents storeroom fire doors. If it is decided that a contractor will be appointed to carry out the necessary works, it is recommended that any such contractor should be a passive fire protection specialist accredited by a UKAS third party scheme such as FIRAS, Q-MARK etc.</p>		21/11/2023	M11

Ref.	Category	Priority	Comments	Recommendation	Quantity	To Be Completed By	Photo Ref.
O1	FIRE SAFETY SIGNS & NOTICES	Low	The Home Office Guidance advises that fire exit signage is not considered necessary within a block provided with only a single stairway, and it has not been provided.	It is not known whether the fire-fighters switch positioned on the front elevation of the premises is still in use (it is thought by the assessor that it was originally provided to isolate an historic internal fluorescent lighting scheme installed at the time of the original construction in 1969). It is possible that it is no longer required. If the switch is no longer required, to avoid any potential confusion in circumstances where South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service are attending the premises, the switch should be removed, lest they believe that the electrics in the common area are isolated when they are not. In the event that the switch is still in use, Berneslai Homes should provide appropriate conspicuous signage displayed next to it (as required by Article 37 of the FSO2005). The format of the signage should be a red background with the words 'Firefighters Switch' in white. A pictogram should also be shown on the signage, which is usually that of a Firefighters helmet.		21/11/2023	O11
P7	MEANS OF GIVING WARNING IN CASE OF FIRE	No Timescale	A Grade D, LD3 fire alarm system was observed within flat 25 which was sampled and this is considered to be a reasonable provision for a general needs flat. A hard-wired smoke alarm was present in the hallway and a battery-operated stand-alone smoke alarm was also present next to it.	Although the current revision of the Home Office Guide advises that an LD3 system is appropriate for general needs flats, it is PCL policy that an LD2 system should be installed in the flat and any other flats similarly affected as per British Standards recommendations. It is recommended that this is performed in the longer term, e.g. during the next programmed EICR.			P71
Q4	MEASURES TO LIMIT FIRE SPREAD AND DEVELOPMENT	Low	Roof voids are checked annually by Berneslai Homes, and records are maintained centrally. The roof void access hatch in the common areas was galvanised steel and is considered to be suitable for continued use. From visual observations made from the second step on a portable set of step ladders, it was observed that there was a masonry wall present in the roof void between the top floor flats and the common areas.	A hole has been made around a roof truss to pass cables into a top floor flat. Repair this breach and any others not readily visible from the roof void access hatch to a minimum of 60-minutes fire resistance. It is recommended that if a contractor is appointed to make the necessary repairs, they should be a passive fire protection specialist accredited by a UKAS third party scheme such as FIRAS, Q-MARK etc.		21/11/2023	Q41

Ref.	Category	Priority	Comments	Recommendation	Quantity	To Be Completed By	Photo Ref.
Q5	MEASURES TO LIMIT FIRE SPREAD AND DEVELOPMENT	Low	There were holes present in the embedded electrical meter cabinets where cables have been passed through into the flats.	Survey the internal areas of all embedded electrical meter cabinets and make repairs were required where cables have been passed through. It is suggested that the repair can possibly be made using a fire-resistant mineral wool batt, which is suitably sealed with a fire-resistant mastic which would allow access in the future providing it was reinstated by a competent person.		21/11/2023	Q51