

Adult Social Services Brent Civic Centre 3rd Floor Engineers Way Wembley Middlesex HA9 0FJ



Operational Director of Adult Social Services

Mr Andrew Walker Senior Coroner Northern District of Greater London North London Coroners Court 29 Wood Street Barnet EN5 4BE

6 May 2022

Dear Coroner,

RE: Regulation 28 Notice Prevention of Future Deaths - Response on behalf of the London Borough of Brent

I write following receipt of a Regulation 28 Notice issued as a result of the death of Mr Ennis. Our response details only those areas for which the London Borough of Brent, herein referred to as Brent Council, has responsibility and falls within our remit.

We wrote to Network Homes, the Housing Association responsible for Knightleas Court, on 22 April 2022, requesting that they provide Brent Council with a full response outlining the following:

- The action that has since been taken or proposed to be taken by your organisation
- A timetable with clear dates for when actions will be completed
- A commitment to how these actions and deadlines will be monitored within the organisation at a senior level to ensure delivery
- How the organisation identifies people living in their properties who are high
 risk in the event of a fire and what measures they take to minimise this risk
 e.g. a personal emergency evacuation plan.

We have yet to receive a response from them, but as they are under the same duty to respond to the Reg 28 notice, the court may hear from them directly.

Brent Council provides care to eleven residents at Knightleas Court. We have prioritised the person centred care reviews for these residents, which will include the personal evacuation plans in place for these residents. These reviews will take place over the next three months. We are updating our risk assessment to take into consideration people who smoke in supportive living accommodation across the

borough and ensure a fire safety assessment is requested from LFB and a safety plan implemented for individuals as appropriate.

In view of the fatality, Brent Council will proactively inspect and enforce Health & Safety and non-compliances in Assisted Living Accommodation such as this, which will be prioritised over 2022-2023. Although London Fire Brigade (LFB) are responsible for fire safety, Brent Council Regulatory Services are responsible for enforcing "assisted living accommodation" that allows adults to live independently. Because of this, the "Regulatory Services Health and Safety Enforcement Team" will monitor Knightleas Court and similar assisted-living accommodation, within the borough, to ensure that they comply with health and safety i.e., gas safety (including carbon monoxide testing), electrical safety (both PAT/NICEIC), equipment maintenance (lifts, fire detection/protection/prevention etc) as well as safe access and egress, to ensure risks are managed appropriately. Where defects are found, they can be reported to the appropriate management team i.e., Network Homes, or enforcement body i.e., LFB, as well as Brent Council's Enforcement team who can take enforcement actions themselves for non-compliance.

Please do not hesitate to come back to me should you need further information related to Brent Council's response.

Yours sincerely,

Operational Director of Adult Service (DASS)