

2 February 2024

Bircherley Court,
Railway Street,
Hertford,
SG14 1RL

Dear residents,

External wall investigation to take place Friday 16 February

Following our previous updates about the need to investigate your building's external wall system, we have now scheduled in these investigations for **Friday 16 February**. The external wall system is anything that makes up the external wall of your building – this includes things like cladding, tiles, insulation, fire barriers and render systems.

Logistics during the investigations

We will be using a cherry picker to carry out the investigations to the external wall system. We'll be inspecting areas across the buildings and looking at all the different material types used. If we need to make any intrusive inspection holes to look behind the outer wall, we will put things back to the way they were before we arrived.

We don't expect these inspections to affect parking during our investigations, but please do make sure you park within allotted spaces to make sure we are able to access the external wall where necessary. We will have some marshals on-site and may need to stop access for some minutes at a time while we move the platform.

Why are investigations taking place?

We've written to you about this before but thought it would be useful to include a reminder of why we're taking a look at your building. Following the Grenfell Tower fire, the government told owners of tall buildings over 18 metres to investigate their buildings and determine if the correct materials had been used, and the construction method/workmanship was appropriate. SNG (then Network Homes) has nearly 100 tall buildings and so it took us some time to be able to investigate all of them. This is especially because professionals with the skills to investigate are in very high demand, due to the number of tall buildings in the UK and London particularly.

We're now investigation our next priority group of buildings below 18 metres – this includes your building. If we don't find any issues, we will be able to issue an EWS1 form (external wall system – EWS) which is a form that certifies the fire safety level of a building. The government has said this is only required for buildings over 18 metres, but some lenders are asking for it to lend on a property. If we do find any issues, we will write to you when we have the next steps to share.

Further support

If you need further info, check our website for your building's letters: www.networkhomes.org.uk/sidneybuildingsafety/. Or get in touch with us on customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk.

Kind regards
Raj Gandecha
Head of Resident Management (Building Safety)

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A summary of this letter

We're following guidance from government that we need to investigate the external wall system of buildings like yours.

Your investigation will take place on **Friday 16 February**.

We may need to access your terrace if you live on the top floor – we'll be in touch about this.

A reminder

Your building's fire strategy is **stay put**, so you should stay in your home unless you are directly affected by smoke, heat or fire, or are told to evacuate by the fire brigade. There is no communal alarm in the