

Safety in your building

17 April 2020

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Dear Residents,

Building Safety Update – communal fire alarms to be installed

On the advice of our fire consultants, our contractor AJS will be installing fire alarms in the communal areas of Vantage Point. We're expecting work to start on **Monday 20 April** and last for three to four weeks.

What does the work involve?

This will be a relatively simple project and shouldn't cause you any disruption. The workers **will not need to enter anyone's homes**. They will only be installing alarms in the corridors and other communal areas.

The alarms use wireless technology so only require screwing into the ceiling or Wall. The majority of works will be undertaken within riser cupboards.

Why is this necessary to do right now?

We understand that you are all practicing social distancing and may be worried about the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) within the block. We are carrying out this work as we believe it is an essential piece of safety work – the alarms in the communal areas will give you more notice if there is a fire than just the waking watch. The government have said safety work can continue – you can read the guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance>.

While the waking watch will still continue after this work is finished, you will have an extra measure in place to notify you of a fire.

When things have returned to normal, we will then also be fitting the alarms in your home too.

What measures are we taking to ensure the safety of everyone at Vantage Point?

There are a variety of steps we are taking to ensure the safety of residents and workers on-site:

- There will only be four workers on site at any one time.
- There will only be one or two workers per floor at any one time.
- Workers will be observing Government recommended guidance with regards to social distancing.
- Workers will **not need to enter your home**.

We need your help!

Do we have your correct contact details?

We're going to send you updates about safety in your building and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to get information. So we will be sending email updates.

Please send your:

- > **Name**
- > **Address**
- > **Postcode**
- > **Email address**
- > **Phone number**
- > **If you're a leaseholder or tenant/subtenant** to customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk.

That way you'll find out what's going on quickly and easily file it for your records.

We'll make sure your details are updated on our system too.

Please check out our privacy policy on our website for more info.

- Works will be predominantly undertaken in riser cupboards on each floor. Further to these alarms will need to be installed along corridors, which should take approx. 30 minutes to one hour. AJS will be providing you with a schedule nearer the time of when your floor's alarms will be installed. This is so you can alter the time of your walk/exercise or leaving the building if you feel that is necessary.
- Remember, even if there are workers on your floor, you should be able to leave the floor by one of the two exits. So, you could use the lifts/stairs at the other end to where the workers are. Please remember not to use the lifts in the event you hear an alarm, leave the building using the nearest staircase. This will be shown on the fire signage within your block.
- The workers will be wearing full protective equipment, including protective clothing, gloves, and masks.
- The workers will carry anti-bacterial spray with them at all times.

We understand this is a very troubling time for everyone, and we understand you may be concerned with people coming into your block. Please be assured that Network Homes and AJS take the safety of residents and staff very seriously and are installing these alarms as we believe it will make you safer in your homes.

If you want to ask any questions, then please contact me on **0300 373 3000** or customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Sam Drinkwater
Neighbourhood Team Leader (Building Safety)