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Address

**Letter from Steve Dudeney, Borough Commander London  
Borough Tower Hamlets, London Fire Brigade**

Dear Leaseholder,

The London Fire Brigade strongly supports Tower Hamlets Homes' campaign to ensure that leaseholders whose doors open onto a communal walkway have a fire safe front door and frame in place.

We have been meeting with Tower Hamlets Homes and have reminded them about the crucial role played by fire safe front doors to flats. These are potentially a life-saving feature.

Two of the major concerns raised regularly by our fire safety officers when they visit blocks of flats are residents who have replaced originally fitted fire doors at the entrance to their properties with doors that don't meet the required safety standards and also people removing the self-closing mechanism on their fire doors to prevent themselves from getting accidentally locked out.

Not having a fire safe front door and frame puts you and your family, the public and firefighters at risk. Talking in support of the recent Fire Door Safety Week, London Fire Commissioner, Dany Cotton said:

*"London Fire Brigade fully supports Fire Door Safety Week. This is an important campaign which drives home the potentially life-saving role that fire doors play in buildings, especially residential buildings such as tower blocks. It is extremely concerning that the lives of the public and our firefighters are still being put at risk by poorly maintained fire doors and people acting irresponsibly by removing self-closers, keeping doors wedged open or even in some cases replacing them."*

*“Good fire doors help stop fires from spreading. Fires that spread put more lives at risk and I would urge everyone to check that their fire doors are properly maintained and kept shut. Remember they don’t just protect you, but everybody in the building.”*

Why are fire doors so important?

- they are specifically designed to withstand fire and smoke for up to 30 minutes
- they are part of the overall approach to reducing fire risk and provide compartmentalisation to areas of the building
- they keep you safe and other residents using escape routes if a fire breaks out
- they are designed to automatically close behind you in the event of fire, holding flames back and stopping the spread of the fire and toxic smoke into escape routes, corridors and other flats in the block
- they are easier to open from the inside in an emergency.

Tower Hamlets Homes are helping residents get a fire safe front door and they are also police approved ‘Secured by Design’ to help make your home resistant to a break in.

I would therefore urge you to work with Tower Hamlets Homes to ensure that you have a fire safe front door and frame.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Dudeney,  
Borough Commander London Borough Tower Hamlets  
London Fire Brigade



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE