

Safety in your building

25 June 2024

Vantage Point,
Berger Road,
Homerton,
Hackney,
E9

Dear Residents,

Scaffold incidents and recent visits by staff and Police

Due to an increase in the number of incidents involving scaffold trespassing at Vantage Point, SNG staff were joined by the local Safer Neighbourhood Team last week to carry out a door knocking exercise. The aim was to speak to residents about these incidents and to remind everyone that accessing the scaffold is a serious health and safety hazard.

The team are currently investigating a series of incidents at Vantage Point and will act according to enforce terms set out in tenancy agreements/leases. If you witness suspicious behaviour on the scaffold, please speak to security, a member of the SNG team or contact the police to report your concerns.

SNG and our remediation contractor have already taken steps in some cases to limit access to the scaffold from balconies and windows, and the team will continue to take further action as necessary.

The scaffolding in place at Vantage Point is a live construction site and subject to strict health and safety rules. It is not a safe area for residents or members of the public to be. All operatives are trained and experienced around scaffolding, and use the space as an active working platform, even when works are not taking place on-site.

Please remember to speak to young people in your household about the dangers of unlawful access on the scaffold as access by unauthorised and untrained individuals can cause serious injuries to those individuals, operatives, and members of the public.

Securing your home

We also wish to remind you to always remain vigilant. Please do not leave windows and doors open when you are not at home. We do not want any trespassers to take advantage of any open windows. Keep windows and curtains closed where possible to stop any potential trespassers from gaining access, also do not leave valuable items on your balcony. To try and mitigate this we would like to remind you that Conneely have installed CCTV in various locations around the scaffold. Please be advised if there is a CCTV camera located adjacent your flat, leaning from your window or movement outside your window may trigger the camera. It is not our intention to capture these images as we are looking to identify and stop people from accessing the scaffold and to enhance security for our residents. Action will be taken against anyone identified on the scaffold and we would ask that anyone who see anybody on the scaffold outside normal working hours to call the Police.

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A summary of this letter

We recently visited site with the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team to reiterate the importance of staying off the scaffolding.

CCTV will capture anyone who trespasses on the scaffold and we will enforce terms set out in the lease.

Please be vigilant in securing your home's windows and balcony doors, and report any suspected trespassing.

A reminder

Your building's fire strategy is currently: **simultaneous evacuation**, which means you must evacuate if you hear the fire alarm, even if you think it is a false alarm.

We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and support, the summer will be particularly busy with a lot of work to balconies being carried out. Please bear with us and allow access when requested, it will allow the works to progress more quickly and help with finishing on time.

Faulty alarm sounding

We would like apologies to those residents who had their night's sleep disturbed on the early hours of Sunday morning the 23rd of June by an alarm sounding on the scaffold. This was due to a faulty alarm unit on the scaffold which is used to alert the onsite team in the event of a fire or medical emergency.

The unit has been isolated and will be replaced on Wednesday 26 June. We will work with Conneely to see what further measures can be introduced to prevent this from occurring again in the future.

Further support

Please contact us on customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk if you have any questions. Previous updates can be viewed at www.networkhomes.org.uk/vantagebuildingsafety.

Kind Regards

Raj Gandecha
Head of Resident Management (Building Safety)