



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
Five Rivers Community Health & Wellbeing Centre,
Hulse Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3NR

Accommodation Barge
Bibby Stockholm
Rotherham Road
Portland Port
Portland
DT5 1PB

Direct Line: 01722 69 [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]@dwfire.org.uk
dwfire.org.uk

Your ref:

My ref: L0003880/154034

Date: 16 August 2023

FAO: The Responsible Person
c/o Joyce Landry
CEO Landry & Kling (on behalf of
Corporate Travel Management)

Dear Sir / Madam,

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

**Address of Premises: Accommodation Barge, Bibby Stockholm, Rotherham Road,
Portland Port, Portland, DT5 1PB**

A fire safety audit of your premises was completed on Thursday 10th August 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of the fire safety measures you have put in place to keep people safe.

The responsible person for the premises has an ongoing duty to provide adequate safety by taking steps to prevent fire and mitigate the effects of fire. The audit identified that some people were at risk in case of fire and improvements are required to provide additional safety.

The attached schedule sets out what you need to do.

Timescale for Completion

The improvements should be completed within 1 months of this letter. You will be contacted again near that time to arrange a further visit.

If you consider that the timescale cannot be met for reasons beyond your control, a request for additional time outlining the reason(s) should be made in writing before the time expires.

Consequences for Non-compliance

If the work in the schedule has not been completed within the timescale (subject to any agreed time extension), safety provisions are found to have worsened, or it is considered that adequate progress is not being made, the authority may decide to serve an enforcement notice on you.

Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell

An enforcement notice would legally bind you to do the work. A failure to comply could result in prosecution.

Fire Safety Management

The attached schedule of improvements details what actions need to be taken to improve fire safety, implementing this fire safety management advice will help you to sustain those improvements.

- Due to the management plan to move further service users onto the barge in separate cohorts and to evidence that the fire evacuation procedure is resilient, regular visits by the fire and rescue service fire safety inspectors should continue until all improvements detailed in the schedule are completed and the accommodation is at maximum occupancy.
- This audit does not ratify the proposed maximum occupancy of the premises which should be subject to a continual review as the numbers increase. The most appropriate means to confirm the effectiveness of the evacuation plan is through drills and training to staff and occupants.
- Where the means of escape from the premises requires coordination and cooperation with other Responsible Persons these should be agreed in writing.

Alternative Solutions

You may wish to adopt a different solution which better meets your needs than those contained in the schedule of improvements. Alternative solutions must be able to achieve the 'outcomes' as stated in the schedule and be capable of providing a level of safety equal to or higher than the suggested action. I am happy to discuss your suggestions.

Further Recommendations

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service recommend the use of appropriately designed and installed residential sprinklers in all sleeping accommodation. Retrospective fitting of sprinklers to residential accommodation should be a consideration as part of the ongoing review of fire risks.

Automatic Fire Alarm Equipment

You are required to have adequate procedures to minimise false activations of automatic fire detection equipment and prevent unwanted notifications from being transmitted to the fire service.

To ensure we are available to respond to genuine emergencies, we will not routinely attend automatic fire signals generated in commercial premises between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Sunday. We will always attend premises where we know people sleep.

You should ensure your fire risk assessment, emergency protocols, and procedures for investigating fire alarm activations are suitable considering the type and use of the premises. If a fire is confirmed, a call should be made using the 999-emergency system.

Further information is available from [dwfire.org.uk/Automatic fire alarms](http://dwfire.org.uk/Automatic%20fire%20alarms).

If you require further information about your responsibilities on how to comply with the law or access additional help or guidance, please visit our website; dwfire.org.uk.



Your Opinion Counts

We value your feedback. Please click [here](#) to take part in our Technical Fire Safety Survey.

Yours faithfully


Fire Safety Inspector

Copy to:

 Project Manager – Accommodation Centres, Asylum Support,
Resettlement and Accommodation  [@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:>@homeoffice.gov.uk))

Important Information – schedule referred to in letter

Notes to this schedule:

The government guidance most suitable to your premises can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-safety-law-and-guidance-documents-for-business>

Before you make certain changes to the premises, you may have to apply for approval from statutory bodies and/or others having interest in them. If you have doubt about the need for approval, you should ask the relevant body. For example, you may have to apply for approval from a Building Control Body to make '[material alterations](#)'. You might also need to apply for the property owners' permission or for '[listed building consent](#)', among others.

This schedule comprises of 5 items

Item number 1

Outcome

This work is necessary to make sure that escape routes (corridors, stairs and doors) can be safely used whenever they are needed.

Suggested Action

Reinstate the alternative escape route from the stern of the barge leading from the canteen/dining room.

Reason

The provision of exits from the canteen/dining room is inadequate for the number of people who may be required to use them.

This means that people may not be able to escape safely in case of fire.

Outcome

This work is necessary to ensure that escape routes (corridors, stairs and doors) can be safely used whenever they are needed.

Suggested Action

Fit securing mechanisms which are easily openable from the inside in an emergency without the use of a key to the access door on the following bedrooms :

333, 274, 272, 270, 268, 266, 264, 254, 216 & 212

Reason

People requiring to use these doors in an emergency may not be able to open them easily, preventing them from escaping safely.

Outcome

This work is necessary to make sure that escape routes (corridors and stairs) can be safely used whenever they are needed.

Suggested Action

Provide a vent at the head of both red stairways which can be manually opened by fire and rescue service crews.

The work should be undertaken by a competent person.

Reason

Protected stairways require a means to ventilate any residual smoke that may enter the stairway during evacuation or firefighting operations to maintain a tenable means of escape for people to use safely in case of fire.

Outcome

This work is necessary to reduce the risk of the spread of fire.

Suggested Action

Reinstate the fire resistance to the wall of store room 363A on deck 3.

Any penetrations through fire rated walls are to be fire sealed using proprietary products by appropriately trained and competent contractors and must match the fire resisting performance of the wall.

Reason

An air transfer grille has been installed which breaches the fire resisting integrity of the wall.

Fire and smoke could spread rapidly from the store which could enter the escape routes and make them unsafe for people to use , exposing them to harm .

Outcome

This work is necessary to help people understand what to do if fire breaks out.

Suggested Action

Carry out regular fire drills during both day and night time; to practice and evidence the resilience of the procedures you have in place for people to follow in case of fire

Reason

If people do not understand what to do in case of fire they may behave inappropriately if fire breaks out. When people are familiar with what to do, their safety is more assured.