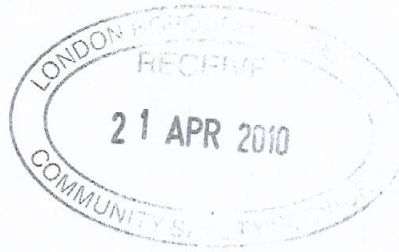




LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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London Fire Brigade is run by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Date 20 April 2010
Our Ref SUPP/HMO EXTN 1/10

Mr Emmanuel M'Fum
Team Leader
Private Sector Housing Enforcement Team
Community Safety Team
Harrow Council
Civic Centre
PO Box 18
Station Road
Harrow HA1 2UT

328304156 №

Dear Mr M'Fum

London Fire Brigade Support for Harrow application for Additional Licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO)

My authority fully supports your application to the DCLG for additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

As you are already aware there is a worrying trend of serious fires in smaller HMOs. There has been a recent successful prosecution where a custodial sentence was handed down to the landlord following the tragic death of a resident in a fire in such a premises. In the last 18 months or so in Hillingdon and Harrow Boroughs we have successfully prosecuted two landlords and have a further three cases before our legal team following fires in HMOs of three or less storeys.

The greater the control of these smaller HMOs the better, as these are by far the most prevalent and statistically the most likely premises in which fires are occurring. In the local area in particular there was an existing severe shortage of cheap housing which has aggravated by the recent financial downturn. This has lead to the opportunity of unscrupulous landlords to exploit people who are seeking cheap accommodation, and we are seeing profit being put over fire and health and safety issues.

Yours sincerely

Martin Green
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