

## Department of Community and Children's Services

Andrew Carter

Director of Community & Children's Services



### Private & Confidential

The Resident  
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**Date:** 14/12/18

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Dear Resident

### Gas Leak at Basterfield House

Further to my letter dated 10 December 2018 relating to the serious gas leak that occurred at Basterfield House last Saturday morning (8 December), I am writing to update you on the work we have been doing to establish the cause of the leak.

As you may be aware, the City of London Police (CoLP) has been conducting its own investigation into this incident and, as part of the process, the CoLP took away a section of the fractured gas pipe for forensic testing. The CoLP has recently given us access to see and photograph the section of gas pipe which, has been extremely helpful in helping us establish what happened last Saturday morning.

It does now seem clear that the gas leak was inadvertently caused by the demolition works at the adjacent COLPAI site. The gas supply pipe for workshops (or similar buildings) that were previously located on the COLPAI site prior to the construction of COLSEC, was fed from the main gas supply pipe located in the basement of Basterfield House. When these workshops were subsequently demolished, the gas supply was disconnected and capped at a point near to where the workshops were located. The gas supply should have been terminated as near as possible to the main gas supply in the basement of Basterfield House.

Prior to commencing the demolition work on site, several surveys had been carried out including:

- Utilities survey report – non-intrusive report using ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey equipment;
- Sonde survey – the use of a dual frequency signal transmitter used to trace drains, sewers and other non-conductive services;
- Search and review of all available drawings and records;

- Underground utilities survey – carried out by Greenhatch;
- Utilities search report.

Unfortunately, none of the above surveys indicated the presence of a live section of gas supply pipe, which was encased in a concrete foundation, running from Basterfield House part way across the new development site.

As I advised you in my letter of 10 December, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has been notified of this incident and its officers visited site on Wednesday 12 December. We have not been made aware of any concerns resulting from its visit and site inspection.

We have also been liaising closely with Cadent Gas Limited, who was called out to investigate and report on the gas leak last Saturday. Cadent has advised that the situation has now been made safe.

Our development contractor, ISG, has been instructed to carry out a further visual survey of surrounding basement areas and, if any 'unusual' pipework or ductwork is identified, ISG will carry out further intrusive surveys to ensure any potential risks or hazards are dealt with.

Demolition work on the COLPAI site is due to recommence on Monday 17 December 2018.

We are planning a drop-in session very early in the New Year where residents can discuss any concerns with CoL Officers and our contractor ISG.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the inconvenience and concern caused by the gas leak. We do understand the seriousness of this matter and the anxiety it has caused.

Yours faithfully



**Paul Murtagh**  
**Assistant Director Barbican & Property Services**