



SUBJECT: Got bad gas???

RECIPIENTS: All Council Directorates

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Records, Records, Records!

An gas energy giant has been hit with a £4 million penalty for passing on incomplete records when it sold its gas distribution networks five years ago.

The records concerned gas risers in high rise multiple occupancy buildings (HRMOBs) which were found to be out of date after the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requested the information from gas distribution networks in June 2017 **following the Grenfell Tower disaster**. The networks, which included many building, had been managed by the company until 2016 when it was taken over by other company. The HSE's investigation revealed the incomplete records were transferred to the new company, but the system had not been subject to any audits or reviews when the records issue came to light in December 2017.



This meant the new company was continuing to inspect only the buildings on the existing database. Records on 769 buildings were missing, meaning gas risers in those HRMOBs had not been subject to a condition survey, inspection or routine maintenance for a number of years. Investigators found that the Gas giant failed to ensure that 112 HRMOBs had pipeline isolation valves (PIVs) so that gas to these buildings could be isolated in the event of an incident. The HSE launched a criminal investigation that considered the risk that residents and members of the public were exposed to as a result of breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act. Enforcement notices were issued in April 2018 requiring them to take remedial action, which it did.

At Crown Court, The Company admitted breaching section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. As well as the £4 million fine, the utility company was ordered to pay £91,805 in prosecution costs. HSE principal investigator said "the case has wide ranging implications, this sentence reflects how important it is when companies are charged with ensuring records that could keep people safe and well are up to date, that they make that task a priority."

For further information of gas safety check within your building please contact LCC Property Services. Tel: 01522555555.

If you have access to Concerto (LCC property service database please check it to ensure all Gas Safety checks have been completed and certificates uploaded.

For further info on Gas Safety and the requirement around "Gas Safe" certification of gas engineers please click [here](#).



If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact: Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see [George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers](#))