

Response from Paul Trueman of JTP Associates, Fire Risk Assessor, following a request for advice on the priorities and timescale to implement the improvement to the Public Hall Fire Doors and Fire Alarm system. July 5th 2017.

"In reply the risk assessment has set out the requirements to improve the standard to meet Government Guidance.

It is not unusual that some works may have to be delayed due to finance or other reason. However, it is important to identify what can be done and prioritise of what can be achieved quickly using the risk assessment time frames as guidance.

It should be understood the time frames specified in the risk assessment are only subjective and not hard and fast.

By the same token if an incident were to occur the first document to be asked for would be the fire risk assessment and the findings of that report used in court as if a legal document.

It should also be understood that the Responsible Person (this being the head of the council) could be prosecuted.

My advice is to firstly annotate the risk assessment of the actions taken and a new time line for when other works will be undertaken.

The other matter is that of putting something else in place to compensate for the lack of fire precautions installed to date.

The obvious high risk is when the public hall is used by outside bodies. Therefore to aid their protection you may wish to consider having trained fire wardens on duty. Or to be totally safe not let the hall out to the public until such a time all works have been completed.

The worst thing to do is to carry on as normal and do nothing and document nothing.

So in summary it is for the Responsible Person to recognise he or she is responsible for any failings and for them to make the decision of how to proceed.

On saying all that I agree the fire alarm is very important and together with fire wardens would make it acceptable to wait a little longer before fire doors are upgraded.

But again I stress it is for the Responsible Person to decide.

I hope this is of assistance"

Paul Trueman