

Field Operations Directorate

Phil Strickland

North West Division
Grove House
Skerton Road
Manchester
M16 0RB

Tel: 0161 952 8213
Fax: 0161 952 8219
philip.strickland@hse.gov.uk

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Principal Inspector
John McGrellis

Mr John Dooley

[Address.
withheld.]

Reference 4268777

Letter indicates but
received approx 4.2.12.

Dear Mr Dooley

WORPLACE (HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE) REGULATIONS 1992

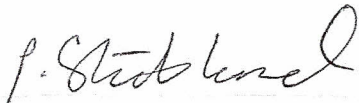
INVESTIGATION INTO THE COMPLAINT REGARDING GENERAL VENTILATION PROVISION AT URBAN VISION PARTNERSHIP LTD, EMERSON HOUSE, ECCLES

1. I am writing to inform you that I have now completed my investigation into the representations you made to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regarding the ventilation at Emerson House, Eccles.
2. My investigation found that air supply rates are adequate for the current occupancy levels of the building.
3. Regulation 6(1) of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 states that "Effective and suitable provision shall be made to ensure that every workplace is ventilated by a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified air." The Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) for the above regulations specifies that "The fresh air supply rate should not normally fall below 5 to 8 litres per second, per occupant."
4. The Investigation established that Emerson House is a square building; there is a central core that contains the stairwell, lifts and toilets. Offices take up the perimeter of the building; some floors are a single open plan space others are divided into smaller offices and meeting rooms. General ventilation is provided by a central mechanical system. Air is extracted through ceiling vents; each floor contains four vents in the office space plus a fifth in the lift lobby. Make-up supply air enters the building through open vents in the walls, there are up to twenty-four vents per floor. Extracting air from the offices creates a negative pressure, which causes 'fresh' outdoor air to be drawn through the open vents in the walls. Along the internal perimeter of the offices on each floor there is a wooden cabinet, which creates a plenum into which the incoming air enters. This plenum contains fan coil units that draw air from the plenum and blow it into the office space.
5. The total extract rate for all areas occupied by Urban Vision Partnership is 5.1 l/s/occupant based on the maximum occupancy or 9.8 l/s/occupant based on 52 % occupancy, which was the average occupancy for the building counted during an audit. The extract rate varies considerably across the building but based on the current occupancy (52%), the extract rate exceeds 5 l/s/occupant for every floor. The building is therefore in compliance with the regulations.

6. I have advised Urban Vision that should the occupancy levels significantly increase on any of the floors then action may need to be taken to ensure that the air supply rate does not fall below 5 l/s/occupant for each floor.

7. Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss anything further. For general enquiries on workplace health and safety you may wish to find HSE's web site. The address is <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

Yours faithfully



Phil Strickland

HM Inspector of Health and Safety