

# Rosepark Care Home Fire

---

## An Overview



Colin Hird  
Building Standards Division



# Scottish Minister - Statement

---

*“we need to know how the fire started, the effect of the fire on the residents and on the building, how the staff responded to the alarm and whether the fire safety systems, including the alarm system, were working and operated properly”*

*Cathy Jamieson – Justice Minister  
4 February 2004*



# Immediate Investigation

---

- Strathclyde Police
- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service
- Health and Safety Executive
- Procurator Fiscals Service
  - cause
  - response
  - criminal proceedings
- The Crown Office
- Lord Advocate – Fatal Accident Inquiry

# Fatal Accident Inquiry

---

- Accidents and Sudden Deaths (Scotland) Act 1976
- Sheriff Principal – Brian A Lockhart
- 16 Interested parties represented at FAI
- Evidence from 212 witnesses
- 141 days (November 2009 - August 2010)
- Sheriff's Determination published 20 April 2011
- <http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/opinions/2011FAI18.pdf>



# Purpose of an FAI

---

- (a) where and when the death and any accident resulting in the death took place;
- (b) the cause or causes of death and any accident resulting in the death;
- (c) the reasonable precautions, if any, whereby the death and any accident resulting in the death might have been avoided **(RP)**;

# Purpose of an FAI

---

- (d) the defects, if any, in any system of working which caused or contributed to the death or any accident resulting in the death **(DS)**; and
- (e) any other facts which are relevant to the circumstances of the death **(OF)**

# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- Built to 1981 Building Regulations and a certificate of completion issued
- Smoke detectors throughout (including cupboards)
- Cavity barriers in ceiling void and roof space (latter had access holes cut in them)
- Compartmentation – Generally good

# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- Cupboard and bedroom doors were hollow-core (cardboard “egg crate” interior)
- Some room doors had self-closers but some had been removed or disconnected, or were intact but the doors were wedged open
- Fire doors to stairs and across corridors were held open on electro-magnetic devices

# Rosepark Layout



# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- Main cupboard double doors
  - left hand door leaf closed
  - right hand door leaf might have been slightly ajar at time of fire
- Inside cupboard was a smaller cabinet containing aerosol cans. One door leaf was blown off, the other was hanging by a hinge
- Exploding aerosols might have blew right hand cupboard door wide open



The Scottish  
Government

# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- Short fierce fire developed causing damage around and near cupboard in corridor
- Cupboard door burned through
- Other materials in corridor ignited – chairs, wallpaper, timber handrails
- Very toxic smoke produced.

# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- All residents in rooms off the immediate corridor died (including those in rooms with closed doors - who survived the immediate fire but died in hospital within a few days).

# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- Hot smoke spread beyond fire doors to next corridor
- Some residents in this corridor died (where rooms open), others survived (where rooms closed) – of concern that sufficient smoke penetrated fire doors (or other routes) to cause deaths



The Scottish  
Government

# What we knew at the time of the fire

---

- Due to delays there was 25 minutes between first detector actuating and first attendance by Fire Brigade in the corridor where the fire was
- By the time the Fire Service had arrived the fire was almost out due to lack of oxygen -damping down only required



The Scottish  
Government

# Scottish Minister - Statement

---

*“Of course, I am aware of suggestions that the installation of sprinklers, either selectively or more generally across categories of building, should be undertaken as a preventive measure”*

*Cathy Jamieson – Justice Minister*

*4 February 2004*



The Scottish  
Government

# Main research brief - BRE

---

- Test 1 - Reconstruction
- Test 2 - Sprinklers
- Test 3 - Fire Doors
- Test 4 - Cupboard

Ventilation duct - COPFS

# Summarise

---

- Significant Ministerial and media interest
- Collaborative Forensic investigation (PF)
- Complex and thorough analysis
- BRE and COPFS research
- Sheriff Principal – FAI
- Determination published in April 2011

