

A move to Area Risk Assessment will enhance fire risk identification across our city

Statement by Cllr Alison Gilliland, Labour Party

Chairperson Special Committee for Fire and Ambulance Services and Emergency Management

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‘That no hotel occupant, member of the public or emergency services personnel was injured in recent Hotel Metro fire in Ballymun is a testament to the skill and expertise of our Dublin Fire Brigade crews supported by our local Gardai.’

‘The incident highlighted the effectiveness of our unique fire based emergency services in Dublin. Every firefight is a trained paramedic, if not an advanced paramedic. Each is highly skilled not only in fire management but also in emergency medicine and able to alternate between fire and ambulance services’.

‘However, the management of each fire emergency, including the deployment of emergency crews and resources, depends on fire risk information available with regard to the type, use and occupancy of the building emergency services may enter. In the case of the Metro Hotel, the current Area Risk Categorisation approach did not identify the significant height of the building nor did it identify this building as a hotel and therefore a potential significant occupancy if full.’

‘The move to an Area Risk Assessment approach, approved at this evening’s Dublin City Council meeting will provide a more detailed assessment of risk - it will identify building heights, building use particularly buildings with vulnerable occupants such as nursing homes, creches, schools, hospitals, buildings with industrial materials, chemicals, flammable materials etc. This approach will not only enhance the fire risk information and knowledge across the city and greater Dublin area for our fire and ambulance services and therefore on the ground fire prevention and management services but it will also enhance the more appropriate resourcing of our invaluable crews and stations.’

‘While Dublin City Council management cites that DCC is operating within national guidelines, the recent Metro Hotel fire has evidenced that these national guidelines are flawed and Dublin City Council must adopt an Area Risk Assessment and lead the way in managing risk in our city in a way that better operationalises current practice.”

ENDS
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