

TOWER HAMLETS COMMUNITY HOUSING

Door Gates and Security Grilles - Policy

1. Statement of intent

- 1.1 THCH is sympathetic to residents who wish to install additional security to protect their home but will only permit the installation of door gates or security grilles if certain conditions can be met. These conditions are designed to ensure that fire safety is not compromised and to protect THCH buildings from damage.
- 1.2 Permission will be given to any resident to erect a door gate or window grille only after:
 - 1.2.1 The resident has confirmed compliance with any local Fire Brigade policies and obtained Planning Permission or Building Regulations approval where required. This will include the resident confirming that suitable means of escape are available.
 - 1.2.2 The resident has confirmed that the door gates and/or window grilles will only be fixed to the door or window frames of the residence.
 - 1.2.3 The resident has confirmed that the structure of the building will not be compromised by the installations – this includes wall render finishes, metal or PVCu sub-frames, wall insulation or asphalt and screed floors.
- 1.3 Security gates will not be permitted to be installed on security doors.

2 Guidance

- 2.1 This policy applies to door gates fitted over front or rear access doors and security grilles fitted over windows.
- 2.2 All window grilles must have areas of sufficient dimensions to allow escape in the event of an emergency.
- 2.3 All grilles should be easily opened from the inside without the need to search for a key.
- 2.4 Legal action may be taken against any resident who erects security gates or grilles in contravention of this policy, in order to secure their removal and the making good of any damage to the building.

- 2.5 Any door gate or window grille erected in contravention of this policy will be removed during refurbishment works and will not be re-erected. They will be offered back to residents. Unclaimed gates or grilles will be disposed of if not claimed within three months of removal.
- 2.6 Doors giving access to private balconies above the ground floor will be treated as windows under this policy.
- 2.7 The term 'Resident(s)' in this policy shall include tenant, lessee or any other person(s) occupying a dwelling with permission from THCH.
- 2.8 Exceptions to this may be agreed by the Director of Housing in special circumstances