

Answers from Public Health England to questions from Central West London Healthwatch to Kensington and Chelsea Council and West London Clinical Commissioning Group

25th August 2017

Respiratory issues and air quality

- The ash and material deposited from the tower is causing the drains around people flats to be blocked. Drains are being blocked by the ash and material from the tower, they are starting to smell in the warm weather. What is being done to address this?

The human nose is very sensitive to odours and often detects odorous chemicals at concentrations in air which pose no risk to health, however odours can be unpleasant and affect wellbeing. Many substances that are perceived as odorous are usually present at levels below which there is a direct toxicological effect. Odours can cause a nuisance to the population possibly leading to stress and anxiety. Some people may experience symptoms such as nausea, headaches or dizziness as a reaction to odours even when the substances that cause those smells are themselves not harmful to health.