

17th May 2023

Jason Taylor

Collider

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Jason,

REF: Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Block A & B, Manchester Road, Huddersfield.

It is understood that there is a planning condition on the building to include an electric vehicle (EV) charging point. At the time of developing the fire strategy this was not known to us and has not been accounted for

We understand the importance of complying with planning conditions, and we would like to bring to your attention the ongoing research being conducted in the fire safety industry regarding EV fires and the associated risks when these vehicles are being charged. The lack of sufficient scientific data on this subject poses significant challenges in terms of designing an informed and safe system. Consequently, any considerations regarding EV charging points would need to rely on cautious estimations of safety due to the limited data available.

Considering the specific circumstances, we understand that the planning requirement is for a single EV charger to be installed under the student accommodation block, which accommodates 474 residents. Given the number of individuals present within the building and the potential associated risks, as the fire engineering practice for the project, we respectfully recommend seeking approval to waive the requirement for an EV charging point.

If the requirement remains in place, it will necessitate a comprehensive reassessment of fire protection and fire safety systems in the building.

Yours Sincerely

Karl Guest
Associate Director
Semper Fire Engineering.