

PRESS RELEASE

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#EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

Cornwall's Only High-Rise To Get Even Safer

Cornwall's only high-rise block of flats, Pak House in St Austell, is to receive a £220,000 investment by its owners, Ocean Housing, with the fitting of a sprinkler system. Built in 1968, the block of 12 floors and 67 flats is of a concrete construction build with an external render finish. Ocean Housing has always maintained a good level of fire safety within the building, but wants to increase its safety, with the retrofit of the system. Following Board Approval, and unanimous support of Senior Management in April, the installation is due to start in June of this year.

At the end of May, residents will be able to visit a show flat within Park House to see how the sprinkler installation will work. They will have the opportunity to meet the contractors, view the system and talk to the team about the installation. The project has been fully supported by Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, with Ocean Housing consulting them throughout.

Ralph Garth, Head of Health, Safety & Environment at Ocean Group said "This is a sizeable investment to by us to further enhance the fire safety of all residents of the Park House Flats. It is a fantastic project that will provide the highest standard of fire protection for our tenants and properties in what is Cornwall's only high rise block of flats".

Automatic sprinkler systems have enjoyed an enviable record of protecting life and property for over 150 years. Sprinklers reduce injuries by at least 80% and can reduce property damage by 90%. More than 70 million sprinkler heads have been fitted worldwide and are widely recognised as the single most effective method for fighting the spread of fires in their early stages. Sprinklers will also protect the lives of firefighters and are fully supported by fire services, the installation of fire sprinklers could virtually eliminate the risk of a fatalities from a fire. Sprinklers do not go off accidentally and the chance of an accidental discharge is more than 16 million to one.

#END#

Attached photos:

1 x Park House external view

#NOTES TO EDITORS#

For further information please contact:

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Ocean Housing Group Ltd

Ocean Housing Group Ltd is the established parent company of charitable benefit society Ocean Housing Ltd and quality Cornish construction company Gilbert & Goode.

Based in St Austell, the Group of companies provides jobs for over 240 local people and oversees the management of over 4,500 properties.

As an employer of choice, Ocean Group is well-reputed in the region for its long-standing investment in staff training and development.

Ocean strives for excellence in governance across all its operations and this was endorsed by Homes England's highest G1 rating at its last assessment.

Ocean Group will add over 1,000 quality new homes to the Cornish landscape over the next 5 years.

Ocean Housing Ltd

Ocean Housing Ltd is an innovative and ambitious housing provider, based in St Austell, Cornwall. Established in 2000, the company provides quality, good-value homes for over 4,500 local residents and their families. Ocean Housing, together with its sister construction company, Gilbert & Goode Ltd and its parent organisation, Ocean Group Ltd, provides jobs for over 240 people.

Ocean Housing is passionate about customer service and handles over 1,000 enquiries a week, on subjects as diverse as tenancy transfers to neighbourhood issues. Every Ocean Housing property meets the Decent Homes Standard.

Investing in customer service, the LiveChat facility has been launched on the Ocean Housing website, the first Cornish social landlord to invest in webchat technology. This complements the MyOcean Tenant Zone, enabling any tenant to check on their account quickly and easily, online. You can also stay in touch with Ocean Housing via Facebook and Twitter.

Gilbert & Goode Ltd

Gilbert & Goode Ltd is mid-Cornwall's most trusted housing developer, based in St Austell, Cornwall. Operating as part of the Ocean group since 2003, the company offers quality Cornish craftsmanship. Gilbert & Goode, together with its sister registered provider, Ocean Housing Ltd and its parent organisation, Ocean Group Ltd, provides jobs for over 240 people.

Gilbert & Goode's strong reputation and management has seen high demand for its homebuilding and market-leading growth figures. This has been recognised repeatedly via industry awards.

The flexibility and track record in effective delivery of small and large schemes, from affordable to executive grade homes, has been instrumental in contributing to this success.

To discuss your requirements or view a Gilbert & Goode home, you can call 01726 64800 or click mail@gilbertandgoode.co.uk.

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