



February 2024

# CASE STUDY

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL UPGRADE  
BRANDON ESTATE TO ACHIEVE LD1  
HIGH PROTECTION FOR OCCUPANTS



SOUTHWARK COUNCIL  
INTRODUCE UPGRADES TO  
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Southwark Council manages a vast portfolio of nearly 38,000 properties, including six high-rise blocks on Brandon Estate. Recognising their current alarms had nearly reached their operational lifetime, Southwark Council prioritised resident safety by embarking on a significant upgrade project.

## TRANSFORMING BRANDON ESTATE'S FIRE ALARM INFRASTRUCTURE

Brandon Estate's pre-existing alarm system relied on a combination of hardwiring and radio frequency technology, but it was approaching the end of its lifespan. With resident safety paramount, Southwark Council prioritised an alarm system upgrade.

Rachel Wright, Regional Specification Manager for South London, met with Southwark Council to address their requirements. Following this, Aico Regional Specification Manager, Rachel Wright and Aico's Technical Team tailored a specification suitable for the estate. The specification was designed to Grade D1, category LD1 standard, incorporating radio frequency connections for a smoother upgrade process, minimizing disruption for residents.

Fitting to this standard will adhere to the specifications outlined in British Standard BS 5839-6:2019.



# A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO RESIDENT SAFETY: UPGRADING TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF FIRE PROTECTION

Brandon Estate is now fully protected by a state-of-the-art, Grade D1, Category LD1 fire alarm system, installed in May 2023. This radio frequency interconnected system guarantees the highest level of safety, ensuring complete peace of mind for all residents.

This cutting-edge upgrade brings a multitude of benefits:

- **Enhanced protection:** Category LD1 covers all rooms that present a risk of fire in the property (except bathrooms and wet rooms), offering quicker detection and enhanced safety.
- **Effortless maintenance:** Mains-powered with tamper-proof backups, residents never need to worry about replacing batteries or removing alarms.
- **Preventative peace of mind:** Keeping the estate compliant and up-to-date minimizes the risk of disrepair and potential fire hazards.

This significant upgrade demonstrates Southwark Council's unwavering commitment to resident safety. With the new system safeguarding every corner of Brandon Estate, residents can rest assured knowing their well-being is a top priority.



Category LD1 Alarm System

# PROACTIVE PROTECTION: FROM EXPERT INSTALLATION TO EMPOWERED RESIDENTS

Aico's FIA CPD-accredited Expert Installer training, delivered by Regional Specification Manager, Rachel Wright, equipped Southwark Council's repairs team, Southwark Repairs, and contractors (Spokemead & BCS) with the knowledge and skills to expertly install domestic Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarm systems. This free training programme delivered onboard Aico's state-of-the-art mobile training units, ensures electrical contractors possess the critical information for reliable and compliant installations.



Working alongside Southwark Council has been fantastic as they are really setting the standards high with Fire & Carbon Monoxide Protection in their properties. Installing LDI is over and above the British Standard which is great to see that Southwark are ensuring their tenants are being kept as safe as possible in their homes. The standard of their Electrical Contractors and their colleagues is of a very high calibre and constantly being reviewed through CPD Training and onsite visits and checks.

*Rachel Wright, Regional Specification Manager, Aico*



Resident Engagement Days encourage active engagement between landlords and their tenants, Aico's mobile units and knowledgeable Regional Specification Managers, help facilitate these days by providing useful skills and information for both parties.

Southwark residents actively participated in two dedicated Resident Engagement days. These sessions tackled essential fire and carbon monoxide safety education, empowering knowledge and awareness across all demographics, from children to families.

## THE FUTURE: LEVERAGING IOT FOR ENHANCED FIRE SAFETY

Southwark Council's new fire and carbon monoxide alarm system boasts radio frequency connectivity throughout its properties. This not only allows for future expansion of the system but would also allow for seamless integration of the HomeLINK Gateway. The Gateway extracts data from the alarms and feeds it to the HomeLINK Portal, enabling remote monitoring and management.

Through a variety of reporting tools, the HomeLINK Portal provides actionable insights into system performance. Empowering proactive decision-making to ensure compliance, predict alarm replacements, and streamline maintenance, ultimately creating safer homes for residents.

Southwark Council and Aico have had a longstanding partnership built on shared values, and have been in collaboration since 2013.





Southwark Council have been installing Aico Fire Alarm systems to their Housing Stock as part of all projects works since 2014.

Having initially worked with Ei Electronics and Aico back in 2013 as part of our Street Conversion Fire Safety works to design a system that could be interlinked between dwellings for the most practicable solution to give early warning to the residents residing in these architypes of properties.

That working relationship continues today and although personnel may have changed along the journey the quality of product and personal service received is still of the highest standard.

*Nigel Rice, Compliance Electrical Manager*



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