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| Time | Speaker | Speech |
| 00:00 | JF | Umm when did you move in to the flat? |
| 00:10 | Brandon | Gosh, well I was, I moved in and out and in again so the last time I moved in was I think it was October of 2017. |
| 00:24 | JF | Ok, and then so have you sublet it previously as well then? |
| 00:28 | Brandon | Yes. |
| 00:34 | JF | Ok, so ok why were you subletting? Were you living somewhere else at the time? |
| 00:41 | Brandon | Yes. |
| 00:45 | JF | And so, so sorry when you’re subletting it, is that because you’re sort of away with work, or is there kind of another..? |
| 00:57 | Brandon | Yeah usually, oh actually no that’s a lie, this time I was away for work, last time I was just living up the road in a house. |
| 01:08 | JF | Ok. So do you own the flat or is it…? |
| 01:11 | Brandon | Yep. |
| 01:12 | JF | Ok and yeah I was wondering if you could tell me a bit about why you chose to buy the flat and live there when you have lived there? |
| 01:21 | Brandon | Umm well it was bought off-plan, which means it’s a lot cheaper and [area of London] is one of the last frontiers of places that are just about affordable in London. And I grew up round there so, it’s just yeah. |
| 01:43 | JF | Mmm mhm and yeah I wondered how how that flat compares to other… oh no yeah sorry, I wondered why specifically that building if there was anything particularly about that flat or the building that you wanted to..? |
| 02:01 | Brandon | No, I mean I quite liked the fact that it was already a building there so it wasn’t an absolute new build it was just an old building that was new build inside if that makes sense and it’s just a convenient spot really. |
| 02:19 | JF | Ok, yeah I also wondered how it compares to where you’re living now or previous places that you’ve lived, when you have lived there have there been things that you particularly like or dislike in comparison to other places that you’ve lived? |
| 02:34 | Brandon | Well I, there are roof gardens, but I don’t have an outdoor space of my own, which is fine but in the summer it’d be quite nice to but it’s very quiet actually, very convenient, very no fuss, I don’t hear any of my neighbours ever, apart from in the summer sometimes people smoke outside the window a little bit there so that’s quite annoying. |
| 03:03 | JF | Mmm so then does the smoke come in? |
| 03:04 | Brandon | Yeah, because my flat’s literally by the door so people literally go outside the door and smoke outside my window. |
| 03:13 | JF | Mmm yeah, do you smoke? |
| 03:14 | Brandon | No, I gave up, I’m good. I had one in Greece in summer! No I don’t. |
| 03:26 | JF | Sorry, what? |
| 03:27 | Brandon | No I don’t. |
| 03:29 | JF | Ok, ok cool yeah so ok cool yeah so I wanted to ask when you were living there, what was your kind of schedule like in terms of how much you were at home? |
| 03:47 | Brandon | I’d say normal, what do you mean? |
| 03:55 | JF | I mean like did you have sort of set hours that you would go to the office every day and come back or..? |
| 04:01 | Brandon | Not really. Pretty fluid, some days I was there all day, some days not at all, you know, sometimes I’m away for weeks at a time and some days I’m not! So no there was never a fixed schedule you know, sometimes I used to work from home in the mornings whatever but more in the evenings so no there was no, every day was completely different. |
| 04:22 | JF | Ok, ok cool. And so you would sometimes work from home, but if you weren’t.. |
| 04:27 | Brandon | Umm yeah, yeah. |
| 04:31 | JF | Mmm and if you weren’t working, what other kinds of things would you be doing when you’re home? What would you mostly spend your time doing? |
| 04:36 | Brandon | Umm socialising… |
| 04:39 | JF | So you’d have people over sort of thing? |
| 04:43 | Brandon | Yeah. And I know it’s small but people used to come because it’s convenient for the [local area] which is across the road so we’d have drinks there before.. but not really, I used to cook there sometimes… |
| 05:02 | JF | Ok cool, and then how did you find the temperature in the flat? |
| 05:06 | Brandon | Fine! I never really used the air, I don’t know if I have air con, I never really used it but or I tried not to use the heating either, because you’re kind of warmed by all the buildings around you… |
| 05:22 | JF | Mm ok, so did you live there during a winter as well? |
| 05:25 | Brandon | Yeah, I mean I put the heating on occasionally but really occasionally, I didn’t really know how to work it so, just hit buttons and if it was hot it’s hot but… |
| 05:36 | JF | And then in the summer would you ever find it have found it too hot or too cold, or…? |
| 05:41 | Brandon | No, the sun used to beat in the window first thing in the morning and then in the afternoon it was round at the back, so it was actually just very early in the morning that I used to get the sun straight through the window. But it was never hot. But I had the windows open the entire summer. |
| 05:58 | JF | Was that, because they tip and tilt don’t they those windows… would that be tipped or tilted or sometimes open them all the way or? |
| 06:08 | Brandon | I couldn’t open them completely although my neighbour can, I can’t, they’ve obviously taken the safety latch off but, no I just tipped them open. |
| 06:18 | JF | Ok, ok would you have, do you think you would have opened them all the way if you could have, or? |
| 06:21 | Brandon | No, because I’m on the ground floor people could have just walked in couldn’t they… |
| 06:27 | JF | Yeah, ok, yeah ok and then so I’m interested in what you thought about the air in the flat as well? |
| 06:41 | Brandon | It was fine, I didn’t cook in there often because, it, especially things like meat, they used to linger quite often because there’s no real draught through. No but, the air was fine. |
| 06:56 | JF | But sometimes, so sometimes the like cooking smells would linger? |
| 07:02 | Brandon | Yes, because you know it’s quite a small apartment, you know there’s no kitchen separation with the living room and so I did cook, but you know, not all the time. |
| 07:17 | JF | And so would it, it would sort of linger in the whole flat or would you notice it be different in the bedroom bit and the living room bit or… |
| 07:26 | Brandon | It didn’t linger that much, I was just kind of aware of it. Like if I cook bacon it’s going to smell for couple of hours…. Which isn’t a bad thing! |
| 07:37 | JF | Ok cool. And were there any kind of, did you ever notice any kind of circumstances in which the air was particularly like nice or good in the flat? |
| 07:52 | Brandon | Um, well I used to light a lot of candles but no I don’t think there’s any nice air… |
| 08:03 | JF | Mhmm and so, would the candles would you do that like… like what circumstances would you do… |
| 08:11 | Brandon | Pretty much every time I was in the flat. I’d walk in, light them, sleep with them… |
| 08:19 | JF | Mhmm and that’s, is that something, do you do that where you are now as well? |
| 08:23 | Brandon | Umm yeah. We work next to a candle shop, they give us free candles. |
| 08:35 | JF | Oh right! And is that like do you think that’s something that you’ve always done or? |
| 08:40 | Brandon | Um yes… |
| 08:51 | JF | Ok, and um do you, like what is it do you think that you particularly like about having them in the house? |
| 09:00 | Brandon | The candles? |
| 09:02 | JF | Yeah |
| 09:03 | Brandon | Uh, well it’s the ambience, the relaxation of them, the smell of them I like the musky smokey ones… |
| 09:17 | JF | Mmm ok cool, and then did you ever notice kind of particular times when you kind of felt like the air in the flat was particularly not nice, like particularly bad? |
| 09:28 | Brandon | Umm.. not really, I think, I was always quite surprised because it’s straight on that main road and you have a buffer zone in-between with the line of trees I think and a building in front so you didn’t actually look right on to the main road really, but you know, it’s London so it’s never going to be the freshest of air but I never was aware of bad air. |
| 09:52 | JF | Mmm ok cool, and when so I was just wondering as well if you would go away for a while, like on holiday or something, and then would come back to the flat, when you first walked in would you ever kind of notice the air in any way…? |
| 10:09 | Brandon | No, I did always used to leave the windows open, even when I went away, even in the winter. |
| 10:15 | JF | Would you keep the windows open the whole winter as well then? |
| 10:18 | Brandon | No, just if I was away because, you know, yep. So no, just if I went away or even just for an evening if I went out, you know just to air it out. But I wouldn’t leave them open the whole winter. |
| 10:33 | JF | And so that would be just to keep the air to kind of air it out while you’re away? |
| 10:41 | Brandon | Yeah, exactly. That’s oh another thing, I don’t know if this is relevant but I used to, there used to be, there are fire alarms in there, but every time I had a shower I used to open the door and set the fire alarms off all the time, but I took my alarms down for that reason because every time I had a shower it used to steam up and open the doors and used to set the fire alarms off but maybe that’s not the air really but |
| 11:10 | JF | Well, no yeah that’s, so would you get condensation then when you showered? |
| 11:14 | Brandon | No, no. Just like a waft of steam almost like a wall of steam with the door opening. If I showered with the door open it wasn’t a problem, if I showered with the door closed it would just [hit in hard one time? Unclear] so I just used to take the fire alarm off. |
| 11:30 | JF | And, would you shower with the door open as well then? |
| 11:33 | Brandon | Sometimes. |
| 11:37 | JF | But if you cook or something you don’t get condensation on the windows or anything? |
| 11:41 | Brandon | No. No, I don’t ever remember seeing condensation. |
| 11:48 | JF | Mm ok, and then so like after you showered and there was the kind of like steam and stuff would you find that that would linger or would that kind of humidity go away quite easily? |
| 11:58 | Brandon | Pretty quickly, yep. |
| 12:07 | JF | Mmm ok, and so did you ever find that there are kind of circumstances where you needed to bring in more fresh air into the flat? |
| 12:17 | Brandon | No, no. I mean, I think I do use those fabric, febreezes and stuff sometimes on my bedsheets and things but I don’t, yeah, no and so I have an air freshener in the bathroom but that’s it really, and then lots of candles but no I didn’t feel as though I needed more fresh air, it was never stifling, never never thought I needed it. |
| 12:44 | JF | Mmm ok. And so when you’re using the febreezes or whatever what’s that sort of for? |
| 12:53 | Brandon | My laundry really after I’ve laundered I usually just spray just to give it a bit of a boost every now and again. |
| 13:03 | JF | Mmm and would you dry the laundry in the flat or did you have a tumble drier? |
| 13:05 | Brandon | Yep. Just hang it from the rails or the radiators, even if they weren’t on. |
| 13:15 | JF | Yeah, yeah, convenient spot! Ok and so would you would you be using any other kind of things to introduce other smells into the flat that you liked or wanted? |
| 13:31 | Brandon | I did have some frankincense, is it? But it was a bit overpowering, it literally filled the whole flat up so I had to chuck it out. |
| 13:53 | JF | Ok, and then so yeah I wondered if you could kind of describe like ideally kind of like the kind of the air to be in a home, so like in terms of maybe like the smells or like the feeling of it kind of thing? |
| 14:11 | Brandon | Umm… I mean I’ve never, I mean, how I would like it? Well I don’t know, I always go, when you leave London or whatever and go to the countryside and you smell the fresh air but it’s not always that pleasant is it, but um, I no I think the air is fine, I like it. No, yeah it’s just as it is. I don’t I never feel in London that it’s too smoggy to be fair, I mean I’ve been to China and to Los Angeles where you can really feel it but, in London it doesn’t seem that bad, even on the main road, I mean, I’m sure it is, but maybe I’m just used to it. |
| 14:57 | JF | Mmm and so the outdoor air. |
| 15:00 | Brandon | Sorry, oh that’s the outdoor air, I mean that obviously comes in doesn’t it, it’s the same air, but um, yeah, no I’m more than happy with the air in the apartment. |
| 15:08 | JF | Ok, cool, ok cool. Sorry I’m just looking through my list, where am I? Umm… ok and then so yeah when it’s winter time um, when would you sort of close the, would you ever open the windows during the winter? |
| 15:35 | Brandon | Absolutely. If I leave the flat I used to, yeah. |
| 15:39 | JF | Mm ok. In what kind of circumstances would that be if you wanted to open the windows in the winter? |
| 15:43 | Brandon | Pretty much every day, if it was, because it’s not always that cold is it, so if I was leaving for work in the morning I’d open the windows, every time I left the flat really, but then… because even if it’s raining it doesn’t come in. And they’re secure so you can’t get into the flat even though I’m on the ground floor. But yeah I used to just tip them, maybe not all of them, maybe just one of them, every time, just to circulate the air. Yeah, pretty much every time I left the flat, pretty much every time I wasn’t in it I’d leave the window open and if it wasn’t too cold I’d leave it for a bit and then close it if it got too cold all night. |
| 16:25 | JF | Yeah, ok so you’d close them some time after you got in? |
| 16:27 | Brandon | Yeah, I wouldn’t rush in and close them, unless it’s freezing cold. |
| 16:34 | JF | Yeah, ok and then would you ever kind of open them again if you weren’t going out? |
| 16:43 | Brandon | Yeah… yeah I mean sometimes, I mean today for example it’s not that cold [about 10ºC on the day of the interview], I probably would have opened them. |
| 16:50 | JF | And then, so when you when you’re wanting to open them, what’s kind of why do you kind of like opening them when you’re there? |
| 17:03 | Brandon | I just like the idea of fresher air in the apartment, I always like the air circulating, because it’s a small place, you need to kind of keep it moving I think. Almost habit I have it. |
| 17:18 | JF | Yeah, I mean, do you think you use windows in a similar way in like other places that you’ve lived as well? |
| 17:20 | Brandon | Yeah I always like having the window open I think even at hotels or where ever I like to. |
| 17:31 | JF | Ok ok and is yeah so in other places that you’ve lived would you have left the windows open during the day when you’re not there as well? |
| 17:41 | Brandon | Yeah, for sure. |
| 17:44 | JF | Ok, and yeah so, do you feel like there’s anything else you do to sort of affect the air in the flat, sort of do anything to it? |
| 18:00 | Brandon | No, apart from candles. And sometimes air fresheners. I think that’s all you can do really is it? I don’t like smoking in there, I don’t think you can smoke in there. I don’t have pets, don’t have smelly plants or anything, no. No potpourri. |
| 18:27 | JF | Ok, or anything else you do to kind of clean the air or? |
| 18:33 | Brandon | No, I mean apart from opening the windows, I don’t have those filters or those fans or anything no. |
| 18:39 | JF | And, yeah so we talked about the outdoor air a bit as well, like do you ever think, like maybe I don’t know even when you’re in China, would you have changed what you do inside based on the quality of the air outside? |
| 18:56 | Brandon | No. Again it’s bad air sometimes there not a lot you can do about it is there, don’t go to China [laughs]. |
| 19:05 | JF | [laughs] ok cool. Oh yeah ok, and I wondered what you think about sort of the indoor air quality in the flat? |
| 19:17 | Brandon | No complaints. No, I don’t feel as though it’s particularly stifling or whatever, not coughing or apart from when people smoke outside and it comes in. |
| 19:34 | JF | Would you, when they did smoke outside, would you ever close the windows or anything? |
| 19:38 | Brandon | Yes. I’d kind of make a big point of slamming it shut, so people could see it and hear it and maybe move away. |
| 19:47 | JF | Yeah, yeah, did they? |
| 19:49 | Brandon | No… in fact I was going to write to the concierge and say can you just send an email and tell people not to smoke. And they you know, obviously there’s cigarette butts there as well but I never did, never got round to it, but next time I’m living there. |
| 20:06 | JF | Mm ok yeah. Ok. And then in terms of the indoor air quality do you know of any kind of, like what can kind of cause bad indoor air quality? Is there anything you kind of think about? |
| 20:24 | Brandon | Well, nothing, like burning stuff in the oven or |
| 20:28 | JF | Yeah, like any kind of sources of indoor air pollution kind of thing that you might know of? |
| 20:35 | Brandon | No, I guess I mean sometimes I don’t like the smell of those fake air fresheners, like the Christmas tree things, the don’t add to the air quality, they make you a bit coughy don’t they, but I don’t know. |
| 20:53 | JF | Ok uhuh, so you’d kind of avoid those ones then? |
| 20:55 | Brandon | Yeah I mean, people say they hate febreeze as well but I wouldn’t, but yeah. Of all of those I think it’s better, they’re not too synthetic. |
| 20:09 | JF | Mmm ok. Ok, and I wondered as well if you could tell me if there’s a ventilation system in the flat? |
| 21:18 | Brandon | Yes. There is if you lift up the hood of the cooking, yeah you don’t have to have it on, but the oven won’t turn on unless you open the ventilation. Not the oven the hob, the cooking hob. It won’t turn on. To turn it on you have to open the ventilation but you can turn the ventilation on without the hob as well. |
| 21:41 | JF | Ok, oh right, ok. So you’d always open that when you’re cooking then. |
| 21:45 | Brandon | Well, yes, on the hob, not necessarily the oven. But yeah, but I both. |
| 21:57 | JF | And so would that, do you think that the hood was effective, did you have the sense that it was… doing a.. |
| 22:06 | Brandon | Uhh yeah… yeah it was effective. You would see the smoke go up it. |
| 22:16 | JF | Yeah, ok and is there any other kind of fans or…? |
| 22:24 | Brandon | No, I mean I’m sure you can buy them but I didn’t. |
| 22:30 | JF | Ok, ok cool, and then so um usually if we were in the flat then I’d ask if we could go and walk around and look at things some stuff but we’re not so I’ll just kind of pretend that we are [laughs] |
| 22:45 | Brandon | Well you’ve seen it you know, I we can do that! |
| 22:50 | JF | Ok! Yeah so I just wanted to start with the windows so yeah so we talked about them being open basically all the time in the summer and some of the times in the winter, would there be kind of apart from you know, it being hot or feeling like you wanted to get more air circulation, do you think there’d be any other kind of circumstances when you might… or actually sorry, I’ll ask a different question, so there are three windows aren’t there? Would there be one that you would tend to use or…? |
| 23:25 | Brandon | The bedroom one I guess. Yeah. |
| 23:31 | JF | Mm would you ever find, so would you sleep with that open as well? |
| 23:36 | Brandon | Yeah. Although, usually it’s very quiet but sometimes when that, when the [local bar’s] open all night on a Friday and Saturday in the summer and sometimes I didn’t mind the sound, you could hear it, you know it’s like a, music or whatever, sometimes I didn’t mind it, usually I was there so I didn’t mind it, but um, sometimes it could get quite loud but only til about 1 am I think. So… I might have closed it on a busy Friday night. People sometimes go for a drink outside or literally right outside the window, or whatever, but and smoke… but yeah. |
| 24:12 | JF | Mmm ok, but yeah usually the bedroom one then, and then because there are two windows in the living room as well.. |
| 24:22 | Brandon | Two in the living room, one in the bedroom. Yeah. |
| 24:25 | JF | Yeah, umm if you were going to open the living room ones would you kind of open both of them or would you do one? |
| 24:30 | Brandon | Yeah I mean, they’re much of a likeness so there’s no point really opening one, might as well open both of them. They only open literally 3 inches don’t they, if that. |
| 24:31 | JF | Yeah, ok. Ok. And then so in the summer, would there be anything else that would cause you to close them apart from noise? Oh and smoking? |
| 24:54 | Brandon | Noise and smoking, yeah I think that would be it. But I, the noise didn’t annoy me too much, it was more the smoking. |
| 25:03 | JF | Yeah, yeah ok. Oh yeah and I also just wondered if you’ve ever had any advice from anyone about or anywhere about opening and closing windows in homes..? |
| 25:15 | Brandon | No. |
| 25:20 | JF | No, ok. And I don’t know if you, I don’t know if you remember there’s like a little slot thing at the top of the window? |
| 25:29 | Brandon | Oh yeah. |
| 25:31 | JF | Do you know… |
| 25:33 | Brandon | Ahh I imagine it’s to be ventilating if you don’t open your windows but I never use them I just open the windows. They might even be open at the same time or closed, I have no idea, I never touched them I don’t think. But I know what they are, what they do but because the windows don’t open that much at all, it’s probably the same effect really, just opening the window. |
| 25:55 | JF | Ok yeah, and have you kind of ever used them in any other place that you’ve lived or have you always just gone for the windows? |
| 26:06 | Brandon | Ah I just open the windows, I guess it’s a modern window thing, like some of the places I’ve lived have had sash windows so they wouldn’t have them but yeah. |
| 26:19 | JF | Ok, um and um, ok so yeah and has anyone ever given you advice about those, has anyone ever? |
| 26:34 | Brandon | No. |
| 26:36 | JF | Ok, um, ok cool and then so you mentioned the cooker hood as well, would anything, if you were able to use the hob without turning it on, do you think you would have done that, or do you think you would have used it anyway? |
| 26:58 | Brandon | Probably used it anyway, I mean if I was boiling an egg I wouldn’t suppose you need it, but if I was frying and stuff, bacon, you know you’d want to get rid of it anyway but if I was boiling an egg maybe I wouldn’t even when I’ve got the option to I usually just put it on anyway. |
| 27:17 | JF | Yeah ok, ok. And that’s just to, I don’t know… |
| 27:24 | Brandon | Yeah… just to keep it fresh I guess and you can see the steam going up it and all the smoke going up it if you need to. |
| 27:33 | JF | Ok cool. And would you ever, does that ever need any kind of maintenance or anything? |
| 27:38 | Brandon | It does… yeah.. yep. |
| 27:48 | JF | Uhuh, what would it need doing? |
| 27:49 | Brandon | Mines doesn’t but my sister’s, hers broke and they had to get someone out to fix it. But like I say the oven doesn’t work without it, sorry the hob doesn’t work without it. |
| 28:02 | JF | Ok, ok so it sort of would just need maintenance if it stopped working sort of thing? |
| 28:11 | Brandon | Yeah I think it’s included in the insurance. For two years anyway you had free insurance for any appliances in the flat at all. But now that’s finished, I have to insure it myself. |
| 28:22 | JF | Right ok, mhmm. Yeah so the cooker hood would there be any other circumstances you’d use it if you weren’t cooking? |
| 28:35 | Brandon | Um no. |
| 28:42 | JF | And in previous places that you’ve lived, or where you are now, would you use it in a similar kind of way? |
| 28:47 | Brandon | Yeah. In the place I lived before didn’t have one, but yeah, it had lots of windows but, oh it did have one! Yeah I’d use it all the time if I was cooking. |
| 28:57 | JF | And then, oh yeah so there’s a door for the bathroom isn’t there, but there aren’t any other doors in the flat. |
| 29:12 | Brandon | No I put that um divider up, but it’s not a fixed door. |
| 29:19 | JF | How do you find it like being in a place with no doors, are there things that you like and dislike about it in comparison to a like a ? |
| 29:27 | Brandon | Yeah, I’d like more of bedroom door I think. |
| 29:35 | JF | Why, uh, why would that be? |
| 29:37 | Brandon | I guess just the smells of the cooking. Um yeah I mean it’s yeah. Just to keep that a bit more separate, but yeah… |
| 29:55 | JF | Yeah, ok. Umm and so yeah in other places that you’ve lived that do have more rooms, would you tend to have the doors open or closed or..? |
| 30:14 | Brandon | I think just the bedroom door closed. |
| 30:18 | JF | Ok, so do you think you would usually sleep with the bedroom door closed? |
| 30:22 | Brandon | Yes. |
| 30:27 | JF | Ok, why would that be? |
| 30:28 | Brandon | I don’t know it’s almost like a thing I have to have the bedroom door firmly closed. I don’t know why, but. |
| 30:36 | JF | Ok, is that sort of something that you’ve always done? |
| 30:39 | Brandon | Yep… but I don’t mind other doors open. |
| 30:50 | JF | Ok… would yeah so, would you prefer other doors closed or would you prefer them open? |
| 31:01 | Brandon | I wouldn’t care if they were open or closed to be honest. Just the bedroom door… |
| 31:09 | JF | Mmm ok, and would that be at night as well as during the day or…? |
| 31:12 | Brandon | Just at night. Yeah, bedroom door could be open all day but as long as I’m sleeping I’d want it to be closed. |
| 31:30 | JF | Mmm ok, and so I just wondered in like yeah places where you have had like a kitchen door, would you ever have used that, or would you mostly have the door open? |
| 31:45 | Brandon | Umm I wouldn’t think either way I wouldn’t… I probably have it open. |
| 31:52 | JF | Yeah.. ok cool. And so the bathroom door in the flat, you would sometimes have it open even if you’re showering to let the condensation, the steam… |
| 32:06 | Brandon | Yeah but then when I took the all the fire alarms down then I was able to close it a bit more. |
| 32:14 | JF | Ok, and oh yeah I also just wondered with that bathroom door, did it ever kind of move in the wind with the windows being open, like would it ever rattle? |
| 32:24 | Brandon | No, there was never wind. |
| 32:31 | JF | No, ok, no. Ok and then I noticed at the bottom of the door there’s a bit of a gap at the bottom of the bathroom door, I don’t know if you’ve ever… I don’t know what you sort of think about that, if you’ve ever kind of noticed it or…? |
| 32:49 | Brandon | Not really, I mean I noticed it, but it didn’t kind of bother me, it wasn’t a huge gap is it, just… |
| 33:02 | JF | Ok, ok and then I also, I don’t know if you noticed at all, but in the bathroom there’s a kind of a round kind of thing on the ceiling and in the kitchen as well next to the smoke alarm there’s like a round sort of terminal thing.. do you, I don’t know if you ever noticed that? |
| 33:28 | Brandon | No, I can’t remember, was it, was that not the fire alarm? |
| 33:32 | JF | No, there’s the fire alarm and then next to that there’s another thing that’s also white but it’s kind of, well it’s basically the, is the terminal for the extract vent in the kitchen and the bathroom. |
| 33:52 | Brandon | Oh I don’t think I noticed it. |
| 33:57 | JF | Never noticed it, yeah, fair enough, ok. And um, yeah, so in the um utility cupboard, I don’t know if you know about there’s a switch for the fan? |
| 34:18 | Brandon | Yes I do, I remember that. |
| 34:20 | JF | Ok cool, did you did you switch that off at some point or..? |
| 34:27 | Brandon | I don’t think I ever touched it, was it on or off? |
| 34:30 | JF | When I went over to see Bridget it was off. |
| 34:33 | Brandon | I don’t think I ever, I don’t know if I ever touched it. Where does it extract from? |
| 34:40 | JF | It, well it extracts from the kitchen and the bathroom, so there’s these round kind of terminal thingies on the ceiling, umm I can send you a picture if you want? |
| 34:52 | Brandon | No I know what you mean, but I never used it actually, I remember the switch but I don’t think, I never really touched it. |
| 34:59 | JF | Ok, ok. Yeah, so I don’t think Bridget had either so it must just have been off. |
| 35:06 | Brandon | Yep. |
| 35:08 | JF | Ok, but yeah so that wasn’t something that you, yeah I just wondered if it was something that you’d consciously switched off? |
| 35:13 | Brandon | No, never I don’t think I ever consciously touched it. |
| 35:17 | JF | Ok yeah, and you never kind of felt like you needed to go in and investigate it? |
| 35:24 | Brandon | No, well, no. No. |
| 35:35 | JF | Ok cool. I’m just checking where I’m up to, see if I’ve forgotten anything. Yeah, yeah so in other kind of places that you’ve lived have you noticed kind of fans in the bathroom? |
| 35:52 | Brandon | Yeah, well some places, well in America I’ve been there quite a lot, they’ve got sort of automatic, you go into the bathroom and turn the light on and the extractor fan comes on automatically, usually. So, yes I do notice them. Especially windowless bathrooms mainly |
| 36:06 | JF | Yeah, yeah and then you kind of hear them as you go in sort of thing? |
| 36:14 | Brandon | Yep. |
| 36:16 | JF | Ok, and do is that something that you think is like do, did you notice that kind of helping with sucking out kind of humidity and… |
| 36:28 | Brandon | I guess so, like I say especially in windowless bathrooms… yeah. |
| 36:34 | JF | Mmm ok. Let me just see. Yeah I think that’s most of the questions that I had. Um, and yeah so thanks for answering all those questions! |
| 37:06 | Brandon | No worries, is that helpful I hope? |
| 37:07 | JF | Yeah, yeah, that’s been really helpful, thank you! |
| 37:09 | Brandon | What did the readings say? Is it very polluted? |
| 37:15 | JF | Oh, no I think because the windows are open the majority of the time, it’s looks fine in terms of the air quality, so I didn’t see anything that was sort of concerning. |
| 37:28 | Brandon | But you were looking just inside the flat the air coming off the main road, is that..? |
| 37:33 | JF | Yeah so no, I didn’t have an air quality sensor outside yeah just because I didn’t have the kind of equipment available. So even the sensor inside which was look at, the one that was on the kitchen, um that was measuring some pollutant concentrations, so that kind of tells you about the pollution that’s making it’s way inside and all of those looked fine, so that’s kind of particulate matter, and VOCs and carbon monoxide, so yeah I didn’t see anything that looked sort of concerning. Um yeah. So I guess the only thing was just with the fan system being switched off it just means you’re not getting the air being sucked out as much as, I mean it doesn’t matter really if you’ve got the windows open but if the windows aren’t open then… |
| 38:36 | Brandon | Yeah, I’m not sure how much Bridget would cook or use them but |
| 38:41 | JF | Yeah I don’t think she she didn’t know about the switch in the cupboard so I switched it on because I wanted to measure the flow rates of the fans, and I mean the flow rates are absolutely, they’re a bit kind of over, so in the building regulations it specifies what how many litres per second you should have, that the fans should be. And they’re actually a bit over the specifications so with the fan system on then you’ve got quite a high ventilation rate. |
| 39:16 | Brandon | Ok, I’ll start using it more then! |
| 39:17 | JF | Yeah [laugh] you might, I don’t know if you’ll find it’s noisy, when I switched it on it made a bit of a noise coming on, but afterwards you stopped, well anyway I wasn’t there for ages, but I stopped noticing it, I think it’s just one of those background hums sort of noises. And then with those the idea is to have the vents above the window open so that even if you’ve got the window closed you’re still drawing in air from outside. I don’t know though if people are smoking outside then maybe that’s annoying I don’t know. |
| 39:50 | Brandon | Yeah, next time I shall say to them don’t do it! Yeah cool, and is all the stuff taken out now? |
| 40:00 | JF | Taken all the stuff out now yeah, I was planning to go back on the 12th January and just do the airtightness test so just measure how leaky the fabric is. |
| 40:09 | Brandon | Ok, so you’ll email Bridget about that? |
| 40:10 | JF | Yeah, I’ll get in touch with Bridget if that’s ok? |
| 40:13 | Brandon | Yeah yeah, that’s fine, do whatever you need to do. |
| 40:20 | JF | Thank you. Yeah so I just wondered if there’s anything else you wanted to mention about what it’s like living in the flat, if there’s anything else you wanted to..? |
| 40:27 | Brandon | No, it’s fine, it’s great I’m looking forward to going back there actually but I’d just say in the summer I’d like a bit more outdoor space, but that’s nothing to do with air quality in the flat it’s just you know, it quite cosy, in the winter it’s cosy, summer it’s cosy but you know it’s nice to have a walk out into a garden or something isn’t it, but that’s nothing to do with the flat. |
| 40:49 | JF | No, I mean yeah it’s I guess yeah it’s nice if you have outdoor space and you’re able to open a door and just kind of let the.. yeah. |
| 41:02 | Brandon | Ok, great! |
| 41:03 | JF | Cool! Oh and just can I also just ask how you found the experience of being involved in the research, like how was it? |
| 41:11 | Brandon | It was no inconvenience whatsoever was it, fairly, I mean obviously Bridget did half of it, but no it’s fine. [Chatter]. |
| 42:05 | JF | Ok yeah, is there anything else you’d like to ask before we finish the interview, is there anything else? |
| 42:09 | Brandon | No, not at all, have you got what you needed? |
| 42:11 | JF | Yeah yeah, that was great, thank you. |
| 42:15 | Brandon | Awesome. [Chatter] |
| 42:27 | JF | And I’ll send you, when I’ve finished kind of looking through everything I’ll send you a summary of what I found. |
| 42:35 | Brandon | Yeah, it’d be interesting, I know that primary schools are all up in arms aren’t they about air quality outside their schools aren’t they and stuff. |
| 42:41 | JF | Yeah, yeah because they’re often on quite busy roads and right next to them and stuff. |
| 42:48 | Brandon | Yeah that’s what I find quite interesting but I think where we are it’s slightly protected isn’t it, with there’s a pond and trees and building, so you’re just that little barrier away. |
| 42:56 | JF | I think that’s it yeah I think it drops off quite quickly when you get away from a main road. |
| 43:02 | Brandon | All the buses and stuff. |
| 43:04 | JF | Yeah exactly. |