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| Time | Person |  |
| 00:00 | JF | There we go, great, ok. Um, ok so if I start with some background questions. So, how long have you lived here? |
| 00:09 | Darren | Since January the 11th. |
| 00:12 | JF | Ok, so that’s last, this year? |
| 00:13 | Darren | This year, yep. |
| 0:14 | JF | Ok, so just under a year. |
| 00:16 | Darren | I pretty much moved in and then got your thing about, can I check the airflow, and I thought year sure, why not! [laughs] |
| 00:21 | JF | Yeah cool, umm and so are you renting or do you own the flat? |
| 00:26 | Darren | Uh renting, yeah. |
| 00:29 | JF | Umm and can you tell me about why you chose to live here? |
| 00:31 | Darren | Umm it seemed really nice, in an area that I could actually get to work, because at the time my work was moving so it was a bit of a problem where I lived to like be able to get to either of them, so and it was the same price as other places that I’d looked at which were terrible! Yeah, horrific, you should do the airflow one on some of those, they were bad! Yep, I mean all your stuff would pick up the smell of weed from the nearby flats as well. Yeah, bad! |
| 01:08 | JF | [Laughs] Yeah, ok and um, ok yeah so how does this compare to previous places that you’ve lived then? |
| 01:14 | Darren | Ummm, well the only previous place, well I mean there were uni ones but I don’t think they really count? Or well, I don’t know whether… |
| 01:25 | JF | Well, [nods] |
| 01:27 | Darren | Yep, the previous place I had I owned, umm and I mean are we talking about in terms of, did I like it, or in terms of the air quality specifically, or something? |
| 1:37 | JF | Ahh, both really I guess, like I mean was it a flat as well, or |
| 1:42 | Darren | Yeah yeah, so it was a 1 bedroom flat but like in a block of flats facing only 1 direction so it would get very cold in the mornings and far too hot in the evenings because the sun would come round. But yeah, it was very nice because it did have a view of the park, which was quite nice. |
| 2:00 | JF | Umm ok and then are there things that you particularly prefer about living here, or…? |
| 2:07 | Darren | Uhhh I like how easy it to actually get anywhere here to be fair. I do like the style of this a lot more I have to say! And space as well, because this is significantly bigger than the previous place that I was in so. |
| 2:25 | JF | Ok, so was the previous one like an older building then? |
| 2:28 | Darren | No, no, no! It was actually brand new but it just happened to be significantly smaller umm and yeah it was a new build. If you’re wondering about air quality it was properly airtight! |
| 2:44 | JF | Oh really! [Laughs] |
| 2:46 | Darren | Yes! It really was, to the point of being silly! |
| 2:50 | JF | Really.. |
| 2:51 | Darren | Yeah, in the summer I think it got to something like 38 or something like that inside nearly 40, and it was just utterly horrendous. I had to get aircon installed into it, at which point the air quality of it probably decreased dramatically, because then the air con always smelled, but |
| 3:08 | JF | Oh, really, ok.. |
| 3:09 | Darren | Here, perfect, lovely! Despite having a main road there and everything it’s just… |
| 3:15 | JF | You don’t notice the air quality outside..? |
| 3:16 | Darren | Yeah. I mean, because I’m on the ground floor as well, so there’s nothing to rise up like there was there as well. |
| 3:21 | JF | Yeah, were you on an upper floor there then? |
| 3:23 | Darren | Yeah I was on an upper floor and the person below us always liked cooking Indian food, so yeah, and so I know that it was very airtight, you couldn’t even smell it and then you’d open the door, damn, it’s there for a week! [both laugh] |
| 3:35 | JF | Oh right ok, so you would notice smells coming in when you opened the door and then…? |
| 3:39 | Darren | The moment that I’d open the door, yeah, but, until that moment, didn’t notice a thing. |
| 3:45 | JF | And then it would stay in there? |
| 3:46 | Darren | And then the heat, the heat, well and the cold would stay in the flat for *days* after a heatwave and stuff like that. |
| 4:00 | Both | [Darren gets a nuisance call] |
| 4:02 | JF | Ok, umm ok and then in an average week, how much are you typically around the flat? |
| 4:10 | Darren | Ummm, I don’t know, I’m here usually most days I would say. Let’s say like ¾ working days a week, I’d be here like in the mornings and evenings, and then weekends usually 1 day, usually I’d spend here. |
| 4:32 | JF | And then do you usually work in the office or here? |
| 4:35 | Darren | In the office, yeah, I don’t like working at home. I like the separation so. |
| 4:42 | JF | Yeah, fair, ok cool, and then when you are here, what kinds of things are you typically doing when you are home? |
| 4:46 | Darren | Umm, let’s be honest here, usually computer [laughs] bit of a [laughs] yep, computer, put it that way, yep. |
| 4:59 | JF | Yep, ok! And, uhh can I ask, do you smoke? |
| 5:02 | Darren | Ahh no, not at all, never have, so. |
| 5:06 | JF | Yeah, ok. Ok, and then thinking a bit more specifically about this flat then, could you tell me about how you find the temperature here? |
| 5:20 | Darren | The temperature? Umm… well during the summer I found it lovely because it was relatively cool, but during winter, it does get very cold very quickly here I have to say. The heating’s actually been on til 10, I don’t know if you can feel it, it’s already like quite cold in here. Uh, in fact we can even check what it is now… |
| 5:44 | JF | Do you have a thermometer…? |
| 5:46 | Darren | Yeah, yeah there’s like a thermometer built into this thing [thermostat / heating control]. It’s already, 19.1 degrees and it’s only been off for.. oh no it’s been off for an hour and a half now. |
| 5:57 | JF | What kind of temperature do you like it to be, do you have a? |
| 6:00 | Darren | Around, 20 and a half. I do prefer it on the cooler side I have to say. I realise that most people don’t hence me getting [mumbles about the new electrical resistance heater]. |
| 6:12 | JF | Yeah ok, do you find it, different in different rooms? Like, do you like different temperatures in different rooms? |
| 6:15 | Darren | Umm, well I particularly like it cold in the bedroom. Sort of thing, that’s always just nice and cosy, you know. Umm but like um, the bedroom probably is at the right temperature for me right now. Here [living room], probably a touch too cold but like I can just put on an extra pair of socks and it’ll be alright, yeah. I think it’s all of these windows, it just leaves… [laughs] |
| 6:37 | JF | Ok, yeah, yeah there are a lot of windows in here aren’t there. Ummm, ok and so do you notice the temperature being different, so you mentioned you like the temperature cooler in the bedroom, is that like for sleep, like at night time? |
| 6:44 | Darren | Yep, yeah. |
| 6:57 | JF | Ok, and then during the day, well I guess in the week days you’d be in the office anyway.. |
| 7:01 | Darren | Yeah, week days I’m in the office anyway, it’s only really, so the heating does come on in the evenings and the morning, but evenings not long enough I think. Ummm, and then if it’s like, really cold I go to bed so. Yeah, so it’s only on days like today when I’m here during an actual full day sort of thing that I notice actually the temperature does drop quite quickly. |
| 7:26 | JF | Yeah, ok, so that’s why you got this heater? |
| 7:28 | Darren | Yeah, that’s why I got the heater as well. |
| 7:32 | JF | Does that help? |
| 7:32 | Darren | Uhh well I bought it yesterday, the box is there, so. So I’ve been putting it off, buying blankets and thicker clothes and things like that so, just get heater! |
| 7:46 | JF | Ok, so to be tested sort of thing. |
| 7:47 | Darren | Yeah, well it warmed up my feet last night, but I don’t know if it’s good for warming the entire flat… probably a little small for that. Ah, they sold me a dodgy one where the top thing doesn’t work [top row of elements]… only two thirds of it works but, it’s probably enough. I’ll take it apart and fix it. |
| 8:12 | JF | Ok, ok and then so in the summer it was, was it always cool enough or were there some times when it was too hot? |
| 8:16 | Darren | Uhhh, I don’t ever remember it being too hot in here to be honest with you. For me it was like perfect. And it was always much cooler when walking into the building as well, because I think the halls might have aircon, I don’t know, but it always felt cooler so. |
| 8:35 | JF | Ok, ok cool. Then, what do you think about the air in the flat? |
| 8:39 | Darren | Hppphhh… I haven’t really had any complaints or anything about it really, it’s air! I, I don’t know! [laughs] I’d say, ok, the only thing I can compare it to is my previous place really, compared to that the air quality in here is definitely better, but um, again, that’s just partially because if anything got into the previous flat it was just trapped inside. Here, despite there being a main road outside the windows, if I open the windows, well ok I won’t now because like it’ll freeze, but um yeah, it’s just, I haven’t noticed anything. Maybe you’ve walked in and been like ‘Ah! This guy stinks!’ |
| 9:23 | JF | No, [laughs], not at all, no! Umm, yeah so you find that, so in the previous one you would find that smells would kind of linger I guess.. |
| 9:33 | Darren | Yeah, for a long time, yeah. |
| 9:35 | JF | And then so if you do things like cooking or whatever… |
| 9:38 | Darren | Yeah yeah yeah, the um, I mean I tend not to cook very smelly stuff anyway so most of the times the smells were from other people around, when I opened the doors to let some of the heat out in the previous place. Yeah, here, no I haven’t noticed anything. I’m pretty sure like the front door a lot of air can escape, there’s a lot of airflow there, so I can be walking past and then my feet will suddenly get a blast of air or something like that. Yeah, even though it’s like also sealed off, so I don’t really understand how it works but yeah. |
| 10:12 | JF | Yeah so sometimes you feel draughts and that can kind of |
| 10:16 | Darren | Yeah, but only from there. |
| 10:18 | JF | Ok, cool. Um, and that’s the same in summer and winter in terms of not noticing lingering smells? |
| 10:25 | Darren | Umm, yeah I haven’t noticed anything. Actually no, I mean I haven’t noticed a lingering smell, because if I do cook something that smells or something like that if I open the window, there’s so many windows it just [whistles] it’s just gone straight away so, I don’t know whether it would linger. |
| 10:28 | JF | Ok, so in general then you would say you haven’t noticed sort of variations in the air quality, like it’s always seemed..? |
| 11:00 | Darren | No, not at all! You’re about to tell me, ‘Well I’ve got the results’ [laughs] |
| 11:02 | JF | No [laughs] no well, I was going to ask if you’ve noticed particular circumstances in which the air quality seemed particularly good, but I don’t know if that’s… |
| 11:12 | Darren | I don’t think I would notice… to be honest with you, I don’t have a great sense of smell, so, yep. |
| 11:21 | JF | Ok, and then maybe I, and then I wonder about other buildings if you might have noticed good quality in other buildings. |
| 11:29 | Darren | Good quality? Ummm I can’t think of any time, no. |
| 11:40 | JF | Ok, and then, or particularly bad air quality? |
| 11:44 | Darren | I can definitely remember some bad ones when I was going and looking around, like I said, one where yeah [shudders] smelt the whole place out, that place had a draught as well, which I don’t know how the smell was lingering there so long that someone looking around the place would find.. |
| 12:02 | JF | That was the one that smelt like weed? |
| 12:03 | Darren | Yeah. Ummm, other places I’ve been to, smelled a lot of damp and things like that. Particularly at university places, like all of them, urrghh, first year place in particular. Yeah, well I don’t know if you want me to go into it because I’ll just rant for 5 minutes! [laughs] |
| 12:21 | JF | [Laughs] Yeah, well if you don’t mind, yeah, what was it like? |
| 12:24 | Darren | Umm, well it was, so it was the year before they were like, it was in halls on the university campus and it was the year before the university association was planning on revamping like that whole set of flats, student flats and stuff like that, and so umm, the place was a little bit worn down which made it cheaper so I could actually live there, um but yeah, like 3, it always smelt a bit like of damp around and stuff like that but then about a month or two months before the end of that first year um the shower broke, something in the shower broke, and was just pouring water out into the hall, and made like a river that sort of wide [1-2 feet] of just flowing water through the hall, and the university didn’t fix it. Yeah, they just said, no no we’ll just fix it when we revamp the whole thing, so we had like a river of water for 2 months, so you would do a hop skip and jump to get to the kitchen [laughs], and so then it smelt damp! That was bad. But I don’t know why they didn’t fix it, that was horrendous. |
| 13:45 | JF | Yeah… so did it, it got damp in the corridor then? |
| 13:48 | Darren | Yeah, like a good like, that wide around the river of water was really damp, hence the jump! |
| 14:00 | JF | Yeah [laughs], right and then would that come into the room as well? |
| 14:03 | Darren | The smell, oh yeah, definitely. Horrendous. |
| 14:07 | JF | Mmmm was there anything you would try and do to sort of limit it in your room, or.. |
| 14:10 | Darren | Well, my room was like really close to it, so like, if you can imagine, there’s not much, not great quality doors or anything like that, and the window was like a single window like that [gestures ~ 1 foot x ~ 1 foot size] and a pane like that big [~ 3 foot x ~ 3 foot] but the only bit you could open was like that [gestures the small one again]. Yeah urgh, urgh [laughs] |
| 14:34 | JF | Ok, yeah, um |
| 14:42 | Darren | Oooh, good quality, I would say my mum and dad’s house, but that’s just because they’ve got such a *nice* garden with loads of flowers all the time, so the smell of that always comes in, but I don’t know whether that’s good quality if you have hayfever, so [laughs] |
| 14:52 | JF | [laughs] yeah that’s subjective isn’t it |
| 14:54 | Darren | Yeah, that’s probably the closest. Although it’s bad quality when the farmer opposite then decides to cover all of his fields with like shit [laughs] then it doesn’t smell so good but… |
| 15:07 | JF | [Laughs] yeah ok so they have nice like flowers and stuff… |
| 15:11 | Darren | Yeah yeah yeah, loads of flowers and things coming inside and whatever the farmer’s got opposite as well, when it’s like rapeseed then it actually smells really nice, I don’t like the name but [laughs] it smells very good. |
| 15:30 | JF | Ok and yeah so I wanted to ask, like if you go away like if you go on holiday or something and you come back do you ever, like when you first open the door, is do you ever kind of notice the air at all? |
| 15:49 | Darren | Actually yeah, now that you mention it, yes. I’ve noticed it once or twice, I don’t know whether it’s actually in this flat, or if it’s me just suddenly having to acclimatise so a slightly different air or something but I have noticed once or twice when I’ve walked in for about 10 seconds I can smell like cheese, that’s it, then it’s gone. I don’t know why, I don’t know what it is. I don’t know whether it’s like something that’s around here, I don’t know if you’ve smelt it when coming at all? |
| 16:20 | JF | I don’t think so, no. |
| 16:22 | Darren | No, ok. I can’t use my nose to track it down because it’s only there for a few seconds before I can no longer notice it, but so. |
| 16:28 | Both | [JF checks noise on phone, Darren gets water] |
| 16:55 | JF | Ok, and then I guess if it’s so it only lasts for 10 seconds? So you don’t.. |
| 16:59 | Darren | Yeah I don’t know whether it’s just me getting used to it really quickly so. Because like one time, yeah it annoyed me so much, it was only there for 10 seconds but I don’t like smelling that when I come into my flat or anything like that so I like cleaned out my fridge of everything, like, so there was nothing that could possibly smell, and yet, yeah I’d still smell it when coming back in, so I don’t know what it was but… [mumbling], never know… |
| 17:40 | JF | Ok and then so how do you ideally like the air to be in a home? |
| 18:04 | Darren | [Sighs…] Oh God… like cool and unscented is probably the way I’d describe it. Yeah I *really* am not a fan of any like incense or any, any fresheners, they always smell a bit off to me, so yeah I don’t like anything really in the air, yeah. I think. |
| 18:29 | JF | Yeah, is there a reason you particularly don’t like those things? |
| 18:37 | Darren | No I just don’t like the smell of them, it seems like a bit of effort to add stuff to the air, seems a bit pointless. |
| 18:51 | JF | And, do you ever find that you get condensation in the flat? |
| 18:56 | Darren | I’ve not noticed it, well now would be the perfect time when it’s sort of quite cold and stuff, but there’s nothing there [checks the living room window]. Actually do you know what, I’m going to check the bedroom window cause that I feel like, perhaps, might not be quite as dry air. [checks bedroom window] Nope, that’s all fine, never noticed any condensation. Never noticed any inside either… well apart from.. actually no, not even on the mirrors in there [bathroom], never noticed it when having a shower or something. |
| 19:33 | JF | Ok, so not even in the bathroom when you shower? |
| 19:38 | Darren | No, no, not ever. |
| 19:40 | JF | Is that the same in previous places that you’ve lived? |
| 19:45 | Darren | No, no, previous places like, I’ve noticed condensation a lot like my previous place, in fact, well that would get condensation everywhere when I was having a shower, all of the mirrors apart from in a little bit which I feel like might have been heated or treated with something but I don’t know what it was, you could always see your face. Yeah, and all the windows would always condense on the outside, including the balcony, like you had glass, but I mean that’s outside so it doesn’t really matter I guess for your thing, but. |
| 20:18 | JF | Oh, so it would be on the outside you would get the condensation? |
| 20:20 | Darren | Yes. [mumbling] sure I don’t remember. Then previous university places they all were… |
| 20:25 | JF | Got condensation? |
| 20:32 | Darren | Yeah, all the time. No matter what the temperature or anything. |
| 20:37 | JF | Just always ok, would you try and do anything to stop that, or..? |
| 20:43 | Darren | Dehumidify it, or? I don’t even know how you would really do that. Have a dry blanket that pulls in it… I don’t know! |
| 20:52 | JF | Ok, so not really then, you wouldn’t try and address it. Ok, and I guess we kind of talked about this a bit already actually, so you basically find it’s easy to get rid of smells and humidity from the kitchen and bathroom? They don’t really tend to linger? |
| 21:09 | Darren | Yeah. |
| 21:15 | JF | Ok, and if you were to cook in the kitchen, would you find that you would be able to smell that around the house, or would it stay quite localised? |
| 21:23 | Darren | Umm, honestly it’s stays quite localised. Like I can smell it from perhaps the sofa, but then even from here [table] I wouldn’t be able to smell it. I don’t really know why, because I’m super lazy about even opening the extractor fan or anything like that, so I don’t know where it goes! [laughs] Don’t ask, don’t tell! |
| 21:47 | JF | [laughs] Ok yeah, and do you find that air sort of lingers in any areas? I guess not then.. |
| 21:50 | Darren | Nope, not at all. |
| 21:55 | JF | Ok, and do you find that there are any circumstances in which you need fresh air in the flat? |
| 22:02 | Darren | I mean, if I’ve been cooking like, I remember, the only real times that I’ve felt like I have to open the windows were like when cooking on a really hot day, but that’s not really to, that’s kind of to let out the heat rather than anything else. Ummm, I’ve opened up the bedroom one… like I’ve barely opened up these windows! Particularly like these [living room behind table] I don’t think I’ve ever really opened them. Your measurements may disagree with me, say no no you opened it then! But umm, yeah I’ve opened up the bedroom ones a few times just while I’m like changing the bedsheets and things like that, just to like, but I feel like that’s more out of habit than anything else, than any necessity for it so. |
| 22:54 | JF | So, when you clean then would you tend to sometimes open then? |
| 22:59 | Darren | Uhh, yeah I might open them just to, I don’t know, is it what you do? [laughs] I don’t know I just open them out of habit, I’m very used to having to do that, where it’s just like, hoover something and then far too much dust would come up or something I don’t know. |
| 23:16 | JF | Ok, and then that would be sort of for the dust then maybe? |
| 23:25 | Darren | Yeah, I might have done that previously, but here like, honestly I haven’t hoovered in like two weeks and it’s like, obviously there’s some lint and stuff on the floor but we’ll ignore that! But apart from that it’s like [not dusty]. |
| 23:37 | JF | Ok, so, yeah so the bedroom ones you might have done a couple of times for when you’re changing bedsheets and stuff |
| 23:43 | Darren | Yeah, but just for like fully airing, maybe as well from the smell of the actual fabric cleaner as well as well, maybe that’s what it is that I’m… but I don’t know, I just do it! Without really thinking [laughs] this isn’t the usual thing, people don’t.. |
| 24:07 | JF | [laughs] I know sorry some of these questions, because they’re sort of stuff you do habitually aren’t they, so it can be a bit difficult to answer! |
| 24:14 | Darren | [laughs] Yeah, it’s like someone taught you when you were five, no no you do this and then it’s like OK! And then you just do it without even thinking. |
| 24:22 | JF | Yeah, yeah, ok. So, do you think it’s something you picked up from your parents then maybe? |
| 24:25 | Darren | I suspect so, yeah. |
| 24:26 | JF | Ok, mmhm, yeah. But you don’t sort of remember a particular sort of reason as such? |
| 24:36 | Darren | Nope, not at all. Just do it. |
| 24:42 | JF | Ok, and then so for sort of cleaning in the bedroom, and sometimes when it’s really hot in here for cooking, do you think there would be any other sort of circumstances you might? |
| 24:51 | Darren | I don’t think I have, as far as I can remember. I don’t think so. |
| 24:59 | JF | And, in previous places that you’ve lived has that been different? |
| 25:00 | Darren | Yeah, I would have opened them a lot more at the previous place. Just because like I said smells would stay around so I’d notice them a lot more. The heat would stay there *a lot* more. Previous places before that, yeah the damp sort of smell in all of my university places so I’d have windows open quite a lot. Here I’ve not really felt like I’ve needed it. Also, as well, being here it’s like a little bit strange in that I’m on the ground floor so anybody can just walk past here so like part of me, especially when I moved in, I was like ‘ooh I don’t want to open windows in case somebody can walk past and just like reach in or something like that.’ I mean, not going to happen, I mean nobody’s ever actually walked past here, but [laughs] in a whole year but yeah. |
| 25:50 | JF | Ok, but in theory, yeah. Ok, so also like a safety aspect to that? |
| 25:53 | Darren | Yeah, I guess so. I mean that’s why the blinds are closed all the time, because I’m very lazy about leaving my laptop out and stuff so. Yeah I certainly wouldn’t leave them open [windows] when I’m out of the house. |
| 26:05 | JF | Yeah, yeah, ok cool. Um, let’s see where am I? |
| 26:19 | Darren | Sorry, gone on a lot of tangents! |
| 26:20 | JF | No, no that’s good, it’s really good! Do you ever notice, when it’s winter time, do you ever notice air coming into the flat, do you ever find it draughty? |
| 26:40 | Darren | Umm, I’ve never found it from like any of these windows or anything like that, and I mean the only other way that air could even get in, is from the front door, where I have noticed it from time to time, but it’s coming from like I said, another sealed room so I don’t really know where it’s coming from, but it’s never been cold in there or… normally the air in the corridor is actually a little warmer in the winter. Sure warming the feet! |
| 27:17 | JF | Ok yeah, and is there anything else you do, do you think to sort of affect the air in the flat to kind of try and manage it or…? |
| 27:22 | Darren | …. No don’t think so. |
| 27:31 | JF | Or anything, do you ever try and sort of clean the air or anything…? |
| 27:35 | Darren | No I don’t, how would you go about cleaning the air? Couldn’t get a hoover on it [laughs]. I don’t know. |
| 27:48 | JF | And then I also wondered what you thought of about the air door quality here? You mentioned being next to the road? |
| 27:54 | Darren | Uhh, yeah it’s obviously not very pleasant stepping outside immediately on an A road. Well, is it a B road or an A road? I’m not sure. But I mean obviously a lot of cars and if you haven’t noticed a whole bunch of police cars and things like that all the time because the police station is just round the corner. Umm yeah so the air quality there is, the moment I step outside, you must have noticed it, like it gets significantly worse straight away, and particularly down towards by the station because there’s the junction there, that’s always really bad. |
| 28:27 | JF | Quite busy isn’t it, yeah. Ok yeah, |
| 28:30 | Darren | That’s the bit which blackens your lungs! Toughens you up! [laughs] |
| 28:33 | JF | [laughs] Yeah, do you think that sort of, so, do you notice noise then from the road as well, or not really inside? |
| 28:40 | Darren | Umm I did initially, because it’s definitely a lot noisier in terms of what’s going on outside than any of my previous places, but particularly where I was before because there was a park so I would notice people playing, which is obviously a nicer noise [laughs] but I would actually notice that *more* even though theoretically it was much quieter. Here it’s just like background more than anything so I don’t notice it as much. |
| 29:21 | JF | Mmmm yeah, so do you think the quality of the outdoor air, would that influence anything that you do inside in terms of the windows, or is that not a factor? |
| 29:30 | Darren | Possibly, I haven’t thought about it before but I guess it might come into it but yeah, like I said, mostly I think it’s like initially just worried about people reaching in or anything like that but |
| 29:48 | JF | Ok cool, and then yeah, and then I also wondered what you think about the indoor air quality in general here? |
| 29:59 | Darren | Seems good to me! Apart from the very occasional smell of cheese that I’ve found, wouldn’t complain at all! |
| 30:08 | JF | And I wondered what you think about what might cause issues with indoor air quality in general, maybe that you haven’t experienced here, but maybe in other places? |
| 30:17 | Darren | But that I have in other places? Or that I have before, or? |
| 30:20 | JF | Uhh just generally I guess yeah, either that you have experienced or that you…? |
| 30:24 | Darren | Yeah, obviously damp is one that I have far too much experience with… ummm, pets. When I’ve been to other people’s flats that have had pets, or actually my previous place I had a hamster as well, that like, definitely degrades the quality of the air! [laughs] significantly so, yeah, but |
| 30:49 | JF | How could you tell that that was doing that? |
| 30:50 | Darren | Stinks! [laughs] If you’re used to somewhere that seems relatively sterile and stuff like that, if you go into someone’s place and they’ve got like a hamster, or a dog or a cat, well not cat, cats don’t really smell. A dog or something else, you can immediately tell ‘ooof, oof there’s a whiff!’ [laughs]. Don’t get me wrong, they’re lovely but ahh you need to be used to that. |
| 31:21 | JF | [laughs] Ok, so then when you had the hamster would you ever try and do anything about the smell from the hamster? |
| 31:27 | Darren | Yeah, I definitely tried to air out the place more often. Clean, cleaned like everything out of his cage really often but it’s a hamster… they smell! There’s not much you can do about that. |
| 31:45 | JF | Yeah, so anything else in terms of indoor air quality that you’ve kind of thought about in previous places? |
| 31:54 | Darren | Ummm people nearby, I mean, just cooking, sometimes it’s food that you don’t want to smell but wouldn’t say it’s bad quality air or anything like that, so I don’t know. |
| 32:15 | JF | Ok, and I was wondering again about this flat, if there’s a ventilation system and how it works? |
| 32:21 | Darren | I would also love to know the answer to that! [laughs] Seems to be working but [laughs] |
| 32:29 | JF | [laughs] Ok, ok, so is it something that you’ve looked into at all or, no? |
| 32:32 | Darren | No, because I’ve never had the need to, so. It’s one of those things, like, you never look at how your plumbing system works until your taps don’t work. So, maybe? You probably know more about it than I do! |
| 32:49 | JF | [laughs] well I was just wondering what you think about it, but yeah. Ok cool, ok so I think that’s most of the kind of questions that I had that I wanted to do here, but if we could go round and look at some stuff that would be nice. Ummm, yeah so… [Darren switches on new electrical resistance heater] Ok, so we talked about the windows a bit, so when you would open them in here [kitchen / living room] if you were cooking in the summer, which ones would you open and sort of how much? |
| 33:31 | Darren | It would literally be just this one. |
| 33:32 | JF | Ok, so that’s the one in the kitchen. Yeah, ok and would you open it, because I think they’re tip and tilt aren’t they? |
| 33:38 | Darren | Yeah, I would just tip it and then that would be more than enough so. And yeah, I haven’t, I mean to put it in perspective I was cooking fish, not that well, yesterday and so it smelt quite a bit just while I was cooking and like there’s no smell at all, you wouldn’t be able to tell and I haven’t opened any windows at all. So like I said, I don’t know where the smell goes but I am grateful that it does. [laughs] |
| 33:44 | JF | Yeah, so when you’re cooking, is, you don’t do anything differently because you’ve got, have you got? |
| 34:15 | Darren | So there is like an extractor fan and stuff. |
| 34:18 | JF | Mhmm, do you use that? |
| 34:19 | Darren | No. I just don’t use it. It seems a bit unnecessary. |
| 34:31 | JF | Have you used them ever in, in previous places have you ever used the extract? |
| 34:41 | Darren | Yeah, yeah, like everywhere before. Here, just very easily fall into a habit of just not doing it, because it doesn’t seem to have any negative consequences, so. |
| 34:53 | JF | Right, yeah, cool, and do you notice, did you start using it when you first moved here? |
| 34:59 | Darren | I did initially, yeah, I opened it just it must have only been for a week or two before I just got too lazy because its like, well there’s nothing here after I use it anyway so hmm, whatever. |
| 35:14 | JF | Yeah, ok and then and what about the noise from it, was that a factor? |
| 35:21 | Darren | Uhhh, I guess might have been. But I mean, not doing something isn’t something that you think about a lot. So, I don’t know, maybe. [laughs] Wouldn’t say this is all like conscious decisions and stuff like that more just like, do whatever your hands do. |
| 35:44 | JF | Yeah, sure I know when things are really ingrained it’s sometimes hard to think about what you do, |
| 35:50 | Darren | Yeah, or justify them actually. |
| 35:53 | JF | Yeah, sorry, asking you difficult questions! Ummm yeah, and so in winter, when the heating is on, would you ever find that you open the windows? |
| 36:10 | Darren | No, I don’t really open them during the winter at all. Yeah, and in summer it was mostly just to let heat out which it did very well anyway, I imagine if I just waited like for an extra 10 minutes it would have gone just straight through all of the [closed] windows. |
| 36:32 | JF | Ok, yeah so we’ve kind of talked about using the windows differently in previous places as well. Ok, um and have you ever had advice about opening and closing windows from anyone, that you are conscious of? |
| 36:50 | Darren | What, for here? |
| 36:51 | JF | In general, just about opening windows in general? |
| 36:55 | Darren | Not as far as I know, I don’t think so. I mean unless you count advice of like, after me and my sister had been cooking or something like that, my sister says ‘open the damn windows!’, that’s just because she’s in a flat where everything does linger a lot so! Well I say it lingers, no it’s just that she has a bunch of room mates who are just like really lazy about cleaning up anything, so the whole place always smells, even if you open the windows. I mean again, she’s, it’s just a habit thing, it’s like I want to open the windows so I don’t feel like I’m suffocating [laughs] |
| 37:39 | JF | Umm ok, and then yeah, and then if we have a – can I open the blind? [pulley thing breaks] oooh sorry! |
| 37:52 | Darren | [laughs] oh, no, you can’t! |
| 37:53 | JF | Ooh sorry, come round and break stuff! |
| 37:55 | Darren | It’s alright [opens the blind]. Oh, so it is only one, I couldn’t remember if it was one or two sides that opened. |
| 38:14 | JF | Yeah, ok, so it would just be this one that you’d open? |
| 38:15 | Darren | Yeah, yes. I have the [mumbling] |
| 38:21 | JF | No, it’s ok. And the, what’s the thing at the top? |
| 38:24 | Darren | No idea! [laughs] Never looked closely. It’s part of the flat! |
| 38:31 | JF | Ok cool, do the other windows have it as well? |
| 38:33 | Darren | [Opens the trickle vent] That’s letting air in and out, when I open that. Is one of them open? Is that what it is? It that what it’s been this whole time? [laughs] Have I just been really stupid? [Opens blind next to sofa to look at trickle vent] Closed. [Looks between blinds behind sofa] I can see that one’s closed. [Looks between blind behind table] That one’s closed. So it’s not me! [laughs] |
| 39:04 | JF | Ok, umm, have you ever noticed that kind of thing in other places you’ve lived? |
| 39:05 | Darren | Yes. I just never looked at it at all here. It’s the first time I’ve even looked at it, so! Ooh, did I close that, oh yeah, says it’s closed. |
| 39:17 | JF | Yeah, that’s closed now. Ok, so in previous places do you think they would have been closed as well? |
| 39:23 | Darren | Ahh, no my previous place I had them open the whole time because uhh letting heat out just passively and just any sort of airflow at all was quite important. Because it was only facing one way and also, the door was like, to the rest of the block of flats was super airtight and things like that, so there was no airflow at all. |
| 39:51 | JF | So in the previous place you wanted.. |
| 39:52 | Darren | Just a little bit, yeah, at all times. |
| 39:55 | JF | Ok cool and do you, has anyone ever given you advice about those vent thingies? No. |
| 40:04 | Darren | I’ve asked for advice about the heating which I’ve been more worried about and I haven’t, I don’t get good advice about that! Like, |
| 40:12 | JF | Who did you ask for advice about that? |
| 40:13 | Darren | Oh the estate agents. They said, ‘here’s the manual’. And just like, it doesn’t tell you how to just turn it on. It’s really stupid, it tells you like, it just gives a label on the button that’s all it gives, and that label is useless because you can tell what the label is because it’s a plus and a minus sign. And then another one which says T1, T2, T3, they’ve just added a label to it and said do you want T1, T2, T3, it doesn’t do anything. Useless manual. Holding them down, pressing multiple at the same time, it doesn’t… don’t know what you’re supposed to do. |
| 40:45 | JF | Ohhh…. Ok. Ok cool, so we talked a bit about the cooker hood and you said you used it at the beginning and then not really since then, umm and then are there other fans in the flat apart from the kitchen extract? |
| 41:34 | Darren | I mean there’s not fans, there’s these [extract fan terminals], which I presume are taking some of the smells away and stuff like that, there’s another one in the bathroom which doesn’t have a fan, although I haven’t really checked… maybe there’ll be a noise when I switch that on [light], yeah so there is that but it doesn’t seem to do anything. |
| 42:00 | JF | So you never noticed it [bathroom fan] making noise? |
| 42:01 | Darren | No, I’ve never noticed it. Nope. Don’t think. [pointing out mirrors] No condensation, it’s been very cold, had a shower earlier, so. |
| 42:17 | JF | And so would those kind of extract thingies, so there’s not a way that you can switch them on or..? With the fan thingies you don’t know of a way to make them come on, extract thingies? |
| 42:41 | Darren | No, maybe there’s, actually is there… behind this, I know this comes off because I’ve taken it off before but I don’t remember what’s behind it. I remember it was some kind of controls or something like that, but I think it controlled this [heated towel rail] though, not that controlled the fan. I turned it off though because my heating bill in the first month was ridiculous. |
| 43:03 | JF | Oh no, oh right, yeah. Um, ok cool, and then, sorry to keep asking about other places, were there fans in previous places that you’ve lived in the bathrooms and kitchens? |
| 43:19 | Darren | Uhh yeah everywhere as far as I can remember. |
| 43:24 | JF | Mm yeah, and would you use those? |
| 43:27 | Darren | Uhh yeah, I think in everywhere where I’ve been before, it would always come on with the light, that’s why I turned on the light here to see, so yeah. I would never manually go and turn it on, it would just come on when you’re there. [Switches on unmarked switch next to bathroom door] |
| 43:44 | JF | Maybe needs the light as well? |
| 43:53 | Darren | [Switches on light, both listen but no noticable noise from fan] Don’t know, don’t know what that does. Turn it back off. It all works well enough for me so [laughs]. |
| 44:10 | JF | Yeah… ok…. [looks through notes] |
| 44:20 | Darren | Actually, why’s the heating on now? Oh there is a bit in the middle of the day. Why’s that changed? Sorry! This is now me just whinging! |
| 44:33 | JF | That’s alright! So this is your thermostat? |
| 44:34 | Darren | Yeah. Why’s? Right, I’m very confused now because every time that I’ve looked at this before, this whole middle bit is all in this T1 bit, which I think is like the off like state, which I’ve put as the highest temperature that off can be. And now it seems to be on, and I don’t know why. |
| 44:58 | JF | Hmmm….what time is it now? 10 to 12…. Oh so it is in this bit |
| 44:59 | Darren | Yeah so it should be in the 11 o’clock bit, why are there two bits? Why’s one of them flashing? It’s on, which would make me think it’s T1, but like why? I don’t know. I give up with this thing. [laughs] Sorry, I’m just pointing it out because that’s most of the reason why windows and things don’t get opened! |
| 45:36 | JF | Right… so if it was warmer do you think you would open them more? |
| 45:39 | Darren | I suspect I would open them more, yeah, but, it’s you know, hypothetical sort of thing. |
| 45:48 | JF | Yeah, yeah, and that would just be for sort of if you were going to open them more..? |
| 45:50 | Darren | [Stands against the full length radiator] There’s one there [radiator to stand next to] [both laugh and put feet on radiators] should have started like this! |
| 46:03 | JF | [Laughs] Ok, yeah, so is there something about not having the windows open that you miss because it’s cold, do you think, or? |
| 46:10 | Darren | I would say yes, but in previous places when I’ve had the windows open it’s been the sounds that I’d kind of miss [when windows were closed], but when I open them here, yes, there’s a children’s playground here, but that’s obviously not the major sound that’s around, it’s like the A road when you open the windows. In previous places it’s been a park, it’s been middle of suburban nowhere and farmland with loads of birds, so that’s one thing that I have missed, yep. |
| 46:46 | JF | And that’s those sounds you like… |
| 46:51 | Darren | Yeah, I mean, I don’t know of anybody who really likes the sound of A roads, but [laughs] |
| 46:58 | JF | [laughs] ok yeah. |
| 47:07 | Darren | I don’t know why this [radiator] is on, but I appreciate it! |
| 47:15 | JF | [laughs] mmmm, ok, oh and then I also wanted to ask about the internal doors. Um, so this [living room] door’s open… |
| 47:24 | Darren | Open all the time, I don’t think I’ve ever shut it, hence it being my coat rack at the moment while I’m being a bit lazy! [laughs] Put it that way. |
| 47:35 | JF | [laughs] Ok, so you’ve never had a circumstance where you’ve wanted to close it? |
| 47:39 | Darren | Literally never closed it, well no, apart from to hoover behind it. |
| 47:48 | JF | Mmm right, ok and what about the bedroom door? |
| 47:51 | Darren | Uhh I’ll close that at night, whilst I’m sleeping, again that’s just kind of like a… kind of a noise thing? Because if I close it then I, I’ve got an Alexa in the bedroom that I use to just play like some sounds or something like that while I sleep, so it just helps to keep any other sounds out of the room that are going on. But I think at this point I probably wouldn’t matter, I’m probably just used to it again. So it’s two doors then that I’m away from the hallway where people can come and go but I’ve never really noticed them, I’ve only noticed people during the day when they’re taking bin bags out and stuff like that because the bins are just down there so. |
| 48:40 | JF | Mmm ok, yeah, and then during the day the bedroom door…? |
| 48:45 | Darren | Open, yep. Bathroom door, depends on whether I’ve walked past it, just push it out the way! |
| 48:56 | JF | Ok and then the bathroom door you would close when you use it, or not? |
| 49:01 | Darren | [laughs] ahh, if you’re on your own don’t even bother! Don’t know whether that sounds bad but, bad habit to get into! Almost caught myself doing it at someone else’s house. Not a good habit to have [both laugh]. |
| 49:22 | JF | Uhh, ok and then in previous places that you’ve lived would your use of the doors be similar do you think? |
| 49:27 | Darren | Yeah… I’ve never lived anywhere where I’ve always closed all the doors or anything like that it’s never been something that I’ve really done. You know, teachers at school would say ‘did you live in a barn?’, well no, I just lived somewhere with doors open [laughs], what’s the matter with you! |
| 49:47 | JF | [laugh] mmm ok, but the bedroom door, would you have always closed that when you were sleeping? |
| 49:53 | Darren | Yes, always have done, don’t know why. Actually no, I do know why, when I was younger I used to like it really cold in my bedroom whilst I was sleeping, I think it’s because my mum and dad got me a way too thick blanket when I was younger, until my teens umm so I’d always have the window open and try and make it cold in my room, and I think they started shutting the door, just like keep the cold in there if that’s what he wants. Something like that so yeah, really that’s what it is. |
| 50:24 | JF | So would the rest of your family have windows open at night as well do you think? |
| 50:27 | Darren | Ahh no they wouldn’t, well I mean any time that it gets like reasonably warm I think might do but… |
| 50:39 | JF | But here you wouldn’t have the window open at night? |
| 50:43 | Darren | No, that was mostly just an it being cool enough kind of thing, I just had too warm blankets. |
| 50:56 | JF | Oh wait, so the blanket was too warm? |
| 50:57 | Darren | Yep, yeah, I remember that very vividly, like it being way too warm all the time. It’s just something you pick up isn’t it, you just keep doing it. |
| 51:16 | JF | Ok, so no circumstances you would close this [living room door], sometimes the bathroom door and the bedroom door at night basically? |
| 51:27 | Darren | Yes. And then those doors, like the [utility cupboard], those I might leave open from time to time, particularly if I’m doing laundry I’ll leave it open just as a reminder, like – look! You can’t go past until you see that you haven’t taken it out yet! Which I’ve definitely done far too many times. Actually, before I – Alexa! Time one hour. Because otherwise I will forget and it is closed. |
| 52:07 | JF | [laughs] ok cool, and when you’ve been in other people’s houses have you ever noticed them keeping internal doors closed particularly more or…? |
| 52:17 | Darren | I don’t think I’ve noticed it necessarily but… |
| 52:28 | JF | Mmmm ok, let me just check [notes] oh! And I also wondered as well about the gap underneath the doors, I don’t know if your bedroom door has it as well… |
| 52:39 | Darren | Ahhh I think the bedroom door does, yes, actually let’s just check, yeah a little one. So yes, it does, but if you see the front door has much more significant which is I think why I notice it there more. [both put hands down to see if there’s a draught under the front door] Definitely colder there, but I don’t know whether it’s actually… maybe it’s just like somebody through there opens the door and then the air goes everywhere but I don’t know. |
| 53:27 | JF | And so, with those gaps under the door is that something that you’ve kind of like or you want… or? |
| 53:34 | Darren | Not particularly bothered by it’s not affected my life much! Sorry I’m hogging the radiator again! |
| 53:42 | JF | No it’s alright I’m ok actually, I think maybe because I’ve got a scarf on I don’t know! |
| 53:47 | Darren | My feet have just cooled down to |
| 53:52 | JF | Yeah… feet are the worst I think like they take ages to warm up again don’t they |
| 53:59 | Darren | Yeah, there’s a lot of surface area here. Heat just leaves. |
| 54:05 | JF | [laughs] Yeah, ok, umm, yeah I think that’s.. yeah so thanks for showing me around and helping with all that. Is there anything you wanted to mention about what it’s been like living here? |
| 54:30 | Darren | No, I think that’s covered more than I even thought about so |
| 54:34 | JF | Yeah, ok cool! I also wanted to ask you how you found the experience of being involved with the research? |
| 54:42 | Darren | Yeah, it’s been fine, it’s like what it’s been like 4 times throughout the year or something like that so, it’s not an issue at all! |
| 54:52 | JF | Ok cool! And the sensors, have you noticed the sensors at all, have they been an issue ever, or? |
| 54:57 | Darren | I noticed, I think I told you I noticed the one in the kitchen a little bit and then I didn’t notice it for like a very long time, and it didn’t seem to be making any noise, I don’t know whether it was still working again now, like I haven’t noticed it right now but… |
| 55:18 | JF | Yeah ok, I’ll check it out. Ok cool, but apart from that they haven’t been, got in the way or? |
| 55:23 | Darren | No, no don’t even know how they would get in the way! |
| 55:27 | JF | Ok cool, great! Umm yeah, let me just double check… ooh yeah, is there anything you’d like to ask before we finish the interview? |
| 55:38 | Darren | No, nope don’t think I do! |
| 55:43 | JF | Alright cool, I’ll stop the recording then |