

Grand Hotel fire caused by air conditioning unit

The fire which broke out in the Grand Hotel over the weekend was caused by an air conditioning and heating unit.

The specialist fire investigation team finished their investigation today after Saturday night's blaze at the five-star hotel.

About 400 guests had to be evacuated from the building at 8pm and were taken to nearby Hilton Metropole Hotel, where they were given hot drinks, sandwiches and blankets.

Ten fire appliances and more than 50 fire-fighters from East and West Sussex went to the incident in King's Road, Brighton.

Group Commander Peter Cox, from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The most likely cause was a fault in an electrical appliance in the room.

"There has never been any suspicion. We have done a comprehensive investigation of the fire room and it left us with a fair amount of evidence that it was due to the air conditioning unit under one of the bedroom windows.

The Institution of Fire Engineers – International Fire News Update