



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

# Building Safety Programme Bulletin

Issue 02 | 13 September 2019

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Following the Grenfell Tower fire, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) established a Building Safety Programme to ensure residents of high-rise buildings are safe and feel safe from the risk of fire, now and in the future. This email update provides the latest information and advice for industry, landlords and building owners.

## New information you may wish to see:

***We have launched a consultation on changes to the Building Regulations guidance on fire safety***

- We have outlined our intention to amend Approved Document B – the building regulations guidance in England covering fire safety. We are consulting on options to reduce the trigger height at which sprinkler systems would be required in new high-rise blocks of flats.
- The consultation also seeks views on plans to improve wayfinding signage within blocks of flats, and to install evacuation alert systems for use by fire and rescue services. We are consulting on reducing the building height for when sprinklers are required in blocks of flats from the current 30 metres (approximately 10 floors) and above to 18 metres

(approximately 6 floors) and requiring better signs and evacuation alert systems to support effective firefighting.

You can respond to our Approved Document B consultation [here](#).

#### ***Private sector remediation fund opens this week***

- Building owners have been able to apply to the fund from 12 September, and applications will remain open until 31 December. Details on how to apply can be found [here](#).
- We will expect each owner of any high rise residential (18m and above) building in the private sector with unsafe ACM Cladding to give a clear commitment to remediation by the end of the year – with a set start and completion date.
- If this is not met, building owners can expect enforcement action to be taken. The expectation is that, other than in exceptional circumstances, building owners should complete remediation within six months of agreeing a plan.
- The Government announced its commitment to fund the replacement of unsafe ACM cladding on private sector high-rise residential blocks (above 18m), on 9 May 2019.

#### ***Funding for building checks and inspections on high-risk residential buildings in England by 2021***

The Secretary of State, the Home Secretary and the National Fire Chiefs Council are establishing a new Protection Board to provide reassurance to residents of high rise and high-risk residential buildings.

- Expert, tailored building checks and inspections by fire and rescue services, backed by £10 million of new funding will begin as soon as practicable.
- These will help provide reassurance to residents, who will be informed of the results of their inspection swiftly, with any recommendations acted upon soon after.
- We will also be providing local authorities with £4 million additional funding to enable their data collection work.

#### ***No deal Brexit guidance for construction products regulations***

- We have updated our no deal Brexit guidance for the construction products regulations on gov.uk [here](#). This sets out steps industry can take to mitigate against the possible effects of a no deal Brexit.
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has recently announced a readiness fund which organisations be eligible to bid for to support their members in their

preparations for Brexit. The funds are designed to support businesses across the UK in understanding the steps they should now take to be ready for 31 October 2019.

- There is £10 million available to support trade associations and other business organisations in helping businesses prepare for Brexit. This fund may be used for various things including (but not limited to) events, training, information campaigns, webinars, podcasts or the production of advice packs. Any use of the fund must be open to both members and non-members and free of charge, ensuring businesses of all sizes can benefit.
- Applications for grants will be accepted up to Monday 30 September 2019 and administered through a dedicated website. For more information on the fund please follow this [link](#) to the government press release or contact the business readiness fund team via [email](#).

## In case you missed it – Building Safety Updates:

- Read the Secretary of State's statement to Parliament updating on progress made by the Building Safety Programme, on Thursday 5 September [here](#).
  - We will respond to the *Building a Safer Future* consultation and aim to legislate at the earliest possible opportunity.
  - The construction industry Early Adopters Group launched its Building Safety Charter on 6 June, and you can sign up for more information [here](#).
  - As part of our response to the Hackitt report, we are intending to establish a new building safety regulator. This will oversee the new regulatory regime for buildings in scope. MHCLG is working closely with the Health and Safety Executive to set up the regulator in shadow form and the Secretary of State will be making decisions on its long-term functions and structure in the Autumn.
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## Key Events:

- **Conferences**
  - **Home Builder's Federation Technical Conference** (18<sup>th</sup> September) – attended by Dee O'Connell, BSP Deputy Director
  - **National Housing Federation Housing Summit** (25<sup>th</sup> September) – attended by Dee O'Connell/Isabella Connell, BSP Deputy Directors

- **Chartered Institute of Building Engineers Annual Conference** (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October) – attended by Neil O'Connor, BSP Director
- **National Housing Federation: Asset Management and Maintenance Conference** (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October) – attended by Offer Stern Weiner, BSP Deputy Director

Thank you for your ongoing interest in this work. Regular email updates will continue to be sent to this email address, however, if you wish to unsubscribe, please click on the link below.

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About the Building Safety Programme:

In the light of the apparent failures in the building safety system, the Government commissioned an independent, forward-looking review of building and fire safety regulations and their effectiveness. The Review was led by Dame Judith Hackitt and looked at the regulatory framework around the construction, maintenance and on-going use of buildings, with a focus on high-rise residential buildings. It found that the system was not fit for purpose and set out 53 recommendations to establish a new regulatory framework and achieve a culture change to create and maintain safe buildings. The [Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety: Final Report](#) was published on 17th May 2018.

We agreed with Dame Judith's diagnosis and the broad principles set out in the Reviews Final Report and set out how we intend to take forward the recommendations in the [Building a Safer Future: an Implementation Plan](#) published on the 18th December.

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