



# Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

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Kelly Tolhurst MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

26<sup>th</sup> February 2019

*Dear Kelly,*

I am writing to you in relation to the review currently being carried out by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) into Whirlpool's modification programme of its defective tumble dryers. As you know, the Committee welcomed the establishment of the OPSS following our report on the safety of electrical goods and has shown a keen interest in Whirlpool's handling of its defective machines and the adequacy of its modification programme.

The review was ordered in May 2018 over concerns that modified machines had caught fire, calling into question whether the modification was effective in making potentially dangerous machines safe. I note that on 8 January 2019 you confirmed that the review was still ongoing and that you would report when it was completed.

Please can you confirm when you expect the OPSS to complete its review and for BEIS to report its findings? Could you also please tell me what progress has been made so far in the previous nine months since the review was launched?

I am deeply concerned that if there are issues with Whirlpool's modification programme, as Which? and BBC's Watchdog programme have suggested, there could be millions of potentially dangerous machines in people's homes. This is a real test of OPSS's ability to deal with a major product safety issue quickly, safely, and transparently.

I would be grateful if you could reply by 12 March 2019.

*with best wishes*

*Rachel Reeves.*

**Rachel Reeves MP**

**Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee**