



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter about Part P of the Building Regulations. Thank you also for the Committee's report on the Hackitt review. We are studying the conclusions and recommendations carefully and my intention would be to send the response to you as soon as possible.

I do recognise the Committee's interest in Part P. My predecessors have written to update you on the work the Government committed to in response to the Committee's 2014 report. We continue to monitor electrical safety statistics relevant to Part P. There is still no indication from these statistics that an impact assessment carried out at this time would produce a different outcome from that produced during the 2013 Part P review.

As you are aware, Annex E of Dame Judith's report refers to Part P of the Building Regulations. This part of the report described the existing system for assessing the competency of electrical installers under Part P, and concluded that *in the proposed new regulatory framework, this will continue to be critical for all building work*. There was no suggestion that the current approach to Part P is inadequate.

Dame Judith's report made a number of recommendations about how the Approved Documents' guidance should be restructured and developed in the future. This would cover all the Approved Document guidance, so including Approved Document P. We are developing a prioritised programme for taking forward work on the Approved Documents and I would expect to set this out in the Autumn, as part of our plan for implementing the Hackitt Review. As well as looking to improve the documents' clarity of language and presentation, we would also look at whether any technical changes are needed.

On the question of competence, Dame Judith recommended that industry work together to develop proposals for an overarching competence framework for those working on high rise residential buildings, and a body to have oversight and assurance of this framework. Industry members have formed a steering group to take this work forward, and expect to bring forward proposals next Spring. I think it would be premature to review the competent

persons' scheme framework in advance of receiving the proposals but we will look carefully at the implications for the Part P scheme once they are published.

Separately, my officials are working with the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) Management Committee on a full revision of the specification, which sets requirements for competence. As you know the specification was previously changed to ensure that the qualified supervisor is involved appropriately in each job.

On supported housing, we made our final policy announcement on 9th August. Our response can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-for-supported-housing-two-consultations>.

Thank you for writing on these matters.

*Yours ever,
James*

RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP