



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

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House of Commons
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24 July 2018

James Clive,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee for your report on the Independent review of building regulations: next steps. We will consider the recommendations carefully and respond formally within the normal timetable. Following my appearance before the Committee on 9 July, I laid a written ministerial statement on 19 July on the critical work the Government is undertaking in response to the Grenfell Tower fire and broader building safety work.

My statement included an update on our ongoing support for survivors and the bereaved, including the latest rehousing statistics as at 16 July. The Minister for Grenfell Victims Nick Hurd also appeared before the Select Committee on 18 July, and I understand he will be writing to you on the issues raised. I therefore propose to write to you again when the house returns to give a further update on progress being made to support those affected by the tragedy.

On building safety, the Government agreed with the final report of the Hackitt review, published in May this year, which concluded that a fundamental reform of the system is required.

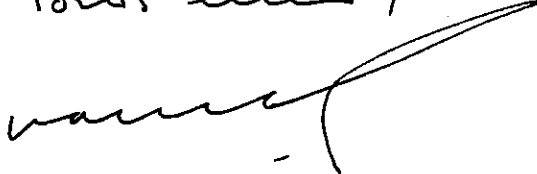
While delivering a new legislative framework will take time, there are actions that both government and industry can take now to kick-start these fundamental reforms, and the Government has begun work to deliver a more effective system. In particular, we have published the clarified building regulations fire safety guidance (Approved Document B) for consultation. The revised guidance will be easier to use and reduce the risk of misinterpretation by those carrying out and inspecting building work. I have also announced that the Government will carry out a wider technical review of the guidance on fire safety and publish a call for evidence in the autumn. And we will introduce a mandatory requirement on landlords in the private rented sector to ensure electrical installations in their property are inspected every five years.

My statement also provided an update on the progress that industry is making towards changing its practice and culture. Organisations from across the sector are demonstrating strong leadership through an early adopters programme to trial action on building safety along the lines of the recommendations of the Hackitt review. Dame Judith Hackitt will chair

an oversight group to drive action across industry, and to hold those who design, construct and look after high-rise buildings to account for prioritising building safety. And we are setting up a residents' reference panel as part of our work to ensure residents have a proper voice.

The full Written Ministerial Statement – which also includes a number of other announcements on the progress that we are making towards improving the building safety system, and updates on remediation of private sector buildings and testing of fire doors – can be found at: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-07-19/HCWS890/>.

I look forward to working together throughout this Parliament to look more widely at issues relating to building safety and ensure that a tragedy like the one we saw at Grenfell Tower can never happen again.

Yours ever,


RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP