



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

Clive Betts MP
Chair
Communities and Local Government Committee
House of Commons
London
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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
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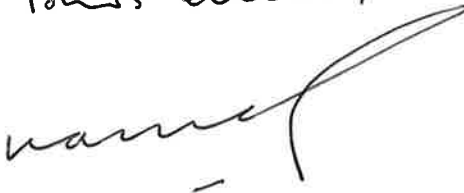
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31 May 2018

Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April in response to my department's consultation on assessments in line of fire test (desktop studies). I can assure you that your comments will be considered alongside any other responses we receive to that consultation. Inappropriate use of desktop studies is unacceptable, and I will not hesitate to ban them if the consultation does not demonstrate that they can be used safely.

I note your comments about the use of a prescriptive approach to regulations. I think this is a debate that we should have once we have all had the chance to consider Dame Judith's final report in full. In the meantime, you will have heard my statement to the house on 17 May. Having listened carefully to the arguments for banning combustible materials in cladding systems on high rise residential buildings, the Government is minded to agree and will consult accordingly as early as is practicable.

Yours ever,


RT HON JAMES BROKENSHIRE MP