

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

26 July 2018

Dear James,

Part P of the building regulations

Thank you very much for your letter of 24 July noting the Committee's report on the *Independent Review of building regulations and fire safety: next step*, and highlighting your recent written ministerial statement of 19 July on the Government's response to the Grenfell Tower fire and broader building safety work. I look forward to receiving the Government's response to our report which I trust, as you suggest, will be received within the normal timeframe.

However, I wanted to write to you further now on the issue of Part P of the Building Regulations, and the Government's plans for a review. This does relate to your follow-up work on the Hackitt Review insofar as your predecessor indicated when I last wrote to him on this issue last Autumn, that "any potential future changes to legislation or guidance will need to take account of the findings of the [Hackitt Review]". We pressed Dame Judith on this points during both our oral evidence session with her on the Review, and in our intervening correspondence of which you are no doubt aware. She told us that Part P would "form part of this review of the overall structure of how the suite of guidance and recommendations work as a whole ...". As I also made clear to Dame Judith in those correspondence, the Committee continues to believe that Part P requires reform, and is concerned that many of the issues highlighted by our predecessor committee's [2014 report](#) into building regulations certification of domestic electrical work are yet to be addressed. Dame Judith's final report noted her hope that the recommendations related to her outcomes-based approach would "ensure that Part P is reviewed and improved as necessary", while she also noted that it was important that the competence of those conducting electrical work was assured and verified. However, it was somewhat disappointing that Part P did not feature more in Dame Judith's final report, nor did she make any firmer recommendations in this regard, despite previous indications in her correspondence.

I would therefore be grateful if you could now indicate what work the Government plans to do with regards to Part P, and when you will commence the long-promised update and review which your predecessor told us the "Government remains committed to doing when the time is right". In particular, it seems clear that the competent persons' scheme now requires urgent

review in light of the Hackitt Review, given it continues to effectively allow many individuals who may not be competent to conduct electrical work in domestic homes.

I am copying in a number of industry stakeholders, many of whom have made representations to myself and the Committee over the last 12 months and may wish to further do so in response to this letter, in order to flag to them that this remains an area of particular interest to the Committee, and one that we may choose to come back to more substantively in the future.

Finally, and separately, I know you intend to write on a number of follow-up points from our very useful evidence session with you on 9 July. During that session, you confirmed to the Committee that the Social Housing Green Paper would be published before the summer recess. Similarly, you stated that the final funding model for supported housing would be announced "very, very soon". Given neither are yet to be published, and noting particularly your specific commitment on the former, please could you include in that response the reasons for these delays.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts', written in a cursive style.

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee

Cc:
Mike Andrews, NAPIT
Emma Clancy, Certsure
Steve Bratt, ECA
Steve Brawley, JIB
Gordon Jenkins, CSCS