

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Dame Judith Hackitt

Chair, Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety



23 April 2018

Dear Dame Judith,

Re: Independent Review Building Regulations and Fire Safety

Thank you for your letter of 5 March, which followed our highly constructive meeting in Westminster on 28 February. We are grateful for the clarifications you provided in your letter and we received encouraging feedback from industry professionals and other stakeholders since publishing it on our website last month.

We are pleased that you have confirmed that the Independent Review will address Part P of the Building Regulations. As I made clear in my previous correspondence and during our meeting, the Committee believes Part P requires considerable reform, and we continue to be concerned by the issues we highlighted in our [2014 report](#) into building regulations certification of domestic electrical work. In particular, we believe the competent persons' scheme would benefit from your attention, as it has the effect of describing as competent many people who are plainly not competent to carry out or supervise electrical works in domestic homes.

We were further reassured by your clarification regarding your views on prescription. You made clear that you do agree that there is a need for some prescription within the regulations and guidance, and we agree that this will be necessary. It remains our strongly held view that a regulatory system that does not explicitly prohibit combustible materials from the external cladding of high-rise buildings would be a serious mistake.

You noted in your letter that current views vary on whether the guidance is clear in relation to the use of combustible cladding materials. In this context, I am enclosing correspondence I have had with the Minister on this issue, which shows that the confusion remains. This adds more weight to our belief that clear prescription in the building regulations in this regard is the only way forward.

Finally, we look forward to receiving your final report, which we understand is due to be published next month. We wish to invite you to give evidence to us on the day of publication, to discuss the recommendations you will be making and the rationale behind them. I would be grateful if your officials could make the necessary arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts', with a stylized flourish above the first name.

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee