

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 4972 Email hclgcom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

13 November 2018

Dear James,

Re: Part P of the Building Regulations

I write further to your letter of 24 October and our preceding correspondence regarding Part P of the Building Regulations.

The Committee is grateful to have already received the [Government's response](#) to our report into the Hackitt Review in September, to which you referred. We would be interested to learn more about your plans for ensuring that building owners in the private sector take responsibility for removing dangerous cladding from their buildings. We recommended a Government-backed low-interest loan scheme to encourage freeholders to get on with remedial work and we note your response committing to not rule out any options. But, 18 months since the fire at Grenfell Tower, progress has been far too slow, and more Government intervention is urgently required.

It is disappointing that the Government continues to be of the view that the current approach to Part P is adequate, despite calls from a range of industry stakeholders as well as past commitments from Ministers dating back five years to review Part P. In particular, I would urge you to consider the recommendations made by [NAPIT](#), in particular those that relate to the competence of operatives carrying out electrical work and those responsible for on-site inspections. As we have previously stated, it continues to be particularly concerning that the current scheme only requires the qualified supervisor within a business to have specified qualifications and competences rather than the individual responsible for conducting electrical work.

The issue of competence was a key focus of Dame Judith Hackitt's inquiry. As you acknowledge in your letter, Dame Judith noted that competence across the system was "patchy" and recommended that an overarching body be established to provide oversight of competence requirements. She explained that the outcomes-based model she had proposed relied very much on "robust competence regimes with appropriate levels of assurance". This would, of course, apply to Part P.

We, therefore, hope and expect that the industry steering group, which has been formed to look into taking the Hackitt Review's recommendations forward, will place particular emphasis on reform of the Part P scheme when it publishes its proposals next Spring. I am grateful that you have committed to look carefully at the implications for the Part P scheme once the industry

proposals are published, and I would be grateful to hear from you on this specific issue at that point.

You indicated that your department is currently developing a prioritisation programme for taking forward work on the Approved Documents following the Hackitt Review. We would encourage the Government to reflect on the particular need for review of Part P as it prepares its programme of work in this area. We look forward to your announcement on the programme of work before the end of this Autumn.

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

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