



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Mr Clive Betts MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government*

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450
Fax: 020 7035 0018
Email: sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

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Dr Clive.

Thank you for your letter of 12 October 2017 requesting an update to the Committee on Part P of the Building Regulations.

As you state in your letter, the Committee's 2014 report into 'Building Regulations Certification of Domestic Electrical Work' made several recommendations for Government. While the Government's response did not include a commitment to a wholesale review of Part P, we did commit to:

- a. Monitor the impacts of changes to Part P and update the analysis in the 2013 impact assessment.
- b. Consult with industry on the arrangements for qualified supervisors and report on the outcome.

In 2015, the Department produced a memorandum, which we sent to the Select Committee detailing the work carried out in these areas and others which were of concern to the Committee. Further to this, Gavin Barwell, the Housing Minister at the time, wrote to the Committee in 2016 to provide an update on work in relation to Part P.

Monitoring the impacts of Part P

We are continuing to monitor statistics related to electrical safety incidents in the home and the membership of Part P competent person schemes, as set out in the Government's response in 2014. I am pleased to report that the most recent data is in line with the long term trend, which is a general decline in electric shock fatalities, hospital admissions, and fires caused by the fixed electrical installation in the home over the long term. The changes

made to Part P in 2013 have not resulted in reduced membership of Part P competent person schemes, and membership of full-scope Part P competent person schemes is at a record high of 44,467.

The Committee should note that the approved technical standard for Part P (BS 7671) is undergoing a significant revision, and the 18th edition of this standard is due to be published in July 2018. My officials are working closely with the relevant industry committees.

The arrangements for qualified supervisors

EC Harris were appointed to carry out an investigation into the qualified supervisor model, and the report was issued in confidence to the Committee in 2016.

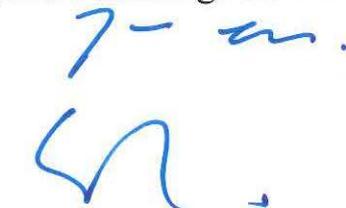
In response to the recommendations of the EC Harris report, Government worked with the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) Management Committee in reviewing the standards for Part P competent person schemes, which includes the standards that qualified supervisors are held to. As a result, additional standards were written into the specification with the aim of strengthening and clarifying the role of the qualified supervisor in electrical installations.

The EAS Management Committee is currently considering a full revision of the specification. Working groups have been formed, and officials are working within these groups to consider the need for any further changes.

Future considerations

Since the industry standard for electrical safety of installations is scheduled for revision in the near future, and taking into account that the number of electric shock fatalities, hospital admissions and fires continues to fall and membership of electrical competent person schemes remains high, I do not consider this to be the right time to run a new impact assessment on Part P, although Government remains committed to doing so when the time is right.

Any potential future changes to legislation or guidance will need to take account of the findings of the independent review being led by Dame Judith Hackitt. The review is focussed on fire safety and high rise buildings but its findings may affect other parts of the Building Regulations.



RT HON SAJID JAVID MP