



Ministry of Housing,
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Local Government

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Lord Greenhalgh
Minister of State for Building Safety and Communities

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and
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Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, regarding the issues of insurance and technical support in relation to building safety. I am responding as Building Safety Minister. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I want to thank you for your continued engagement and support on the important matter of building safety. Residents' safety is our priority; they should be, and feel, safe in their homes. Removal of unsafe Aluminium Composite Material (ACM PE) cladding from high rise buildings remains a Government priority. The private sector remediation fund has removed the biggest blocker to progress on remediation in the private sector, however we recognise that the pace of remediation must increase.

We have taken action to support the owners of affected buildings. As well as the appointment of Dr David Hancock to review remediation of unsafe ACM, we have also appointed Faithful & Gould, a firm of expert construction consultants, to provide additional programme management capability. They will work directly with those responsible for remediation to support individual projects.

You will be aware that Covid-19 is having an impact on the construction industry. The Government's view is that the work to remove unsafe cladding from buildings is critical to public safety and so must remain a top priority. My Department will do all it can to support building owners, managers and residents to ensure that remediation work continues where it is safe to do so.

Government has strengthened its commitment to ensuring the long term safety of residents in buildings with unsafe cladding with the recent announcement of the provision of £1 billion to fund the removal and replacement of unsafe non-ACM cladding systems on buildings in both the social and private residential sectors of 18 metres and over in height. This is in addition to the £600 million funding already provided for the remediation of unsafe ACM cladding on buildings of the same height.

This funding reflects the exceptional risk posed by unsafe cladding at such heights and does not absolve building owners of their responsibility to ensure the buildings they own are safe. You can find more information on the fund here: www.gov.uk/guidance/remediation-of-non-acm-buildings.

With this additional funding, there can now be no excuse for buildings owners to rely on interim measures.

We are aware that concerns about cladding have had an effect on the insurance market and are working with industry to understand approaches to risk and the factors that determine coverage and costs. It is essential that building owners engage brokers early and provide as much information on the building, including any fire risks assessment and remediation plans, to enable them to find the best available cover.

Thank you again for your letter, and your continued interest in these important matters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Greenhalgh', written in a cursive style.

LORD GREENHALGH