

Rt Hon George Howarth MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA **Dominic Raab MP**Minister of State for Housing

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Dear George,

Thank you for email of 29 May, on behalf of your constituents, about funding for the replacement of unsafe aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding. I am replying as the Minister of State for Housing.

Councils and housing associations must remove dangerous cladding quickly. Interim measures are in place across all affected buildings in the social sector and work has already started on two thirds of these. We have been listening to what social sector landlords have been telling us about the cost of remediating ACM cladding systems and know that the expense involved means that social landlords are having to take decisions about how to prioritise important services, repairs and maintenance work and new supply.

The Government will therefore fully fund the removal and replacement of dangerous ACM cladding systems that have failed large scale tests on residential buildings over 18m owned by councils and housing associations, with costs estimated at £400m.

The money is coming from the Affordable Homes Programme. However, the same amount of money will be replaced in the programme in 2021-22. So our Affordable Homes Programme remains over £9 billion, with an additional £400 million of that now available in 2021-22.

This responds to calls from social landlords for longer term certainty of grant funding for new homes. The programme will still deliver the same number of homes.

We want to get funding to councils and housing associations as soon as possible, so that they can focus on the job of making their building safe. We will announce more details shortly about how councils and housing associations can apply for funding.

DOMINIC RAAB MP