



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
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Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Housing

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Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 24 May to the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, on behalf of your constituents who have raised concerns about building safety. I am replying as the Minister of State for Housing.

72 people lost their lives in the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017, making it the worst residential fire in a century. Nothing is more important than ensuring people are safe in their homes, and I want to assure you and your constituents that I remain resolute in my determination to ensure that residents of all buildings are and feel safe.

Whilst fundamental, real-world change on this scale, and across a complex market and regulatory landscape will take time, we have not waited for legislation to begin reforming the system. We have identified unsafe buildings and ensured that appropriate interim measures are in place; removed unsafe products from the market, and intervened in the market to ensure that safety materials are marked correctly; and issued expert advice on a range of wider building safety risks.

We are taking steps to fundamentally reform the system for the future, following Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review. We committed to take forward the recommendations made by the Review as part of a fundamental reform of the system. Our consultation outlines how we intend to deliver meaningful and lasting change by giving residents a stronger voice and putting clear responsibility and accountability at the heart of a more effective building safety system. As I stated in the House of Commons on 9 May, "Dame Judith Hackitt presented a very stark picture of the need for responsibility, for tougher sanctions and, indeed, for different regulatory arrangements. I propose to update the House on next steps in the coming weeks, because I hear that message very clearly, and I intend to act."

Additionally, the Social Housing Green Paper published in August 2018 set out a new, fairer deal for residents to ensure that homes are safe and decent, that residents are treated with dignity and respect and that we have the social housing we need for the future. As part of the Green Paper, the Government set out its intention to conduct an in-depth review of the regulation of social housing to ensure it remains fit for purpose, reflects changes in the social housing sector and drives a focus on delivering a good service for residents. The review is looking at all aspects of the regulatory system that applies to social housing and we will set our response to that review in due course.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope your constituents find this information helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'K' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KIT MALTHOUSE MP