



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Sir Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham
Lewisham Council
Civic Suite
Catford
London SE6 4RU

Email: steve.bullock@lewisham.gov.uk

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government

4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450

Fax: 0303 444 3289

E-Mail: sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

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Dear Sir Steve,

Thank you for your letter to my Department about the position on funding for works you consider necessary to buildings following the Grenfell Tower fire. We recognise that local authorities as landlords will be working hard to ensure that their buildings are safe and we appreciate you getting in touch with details of the position you are in, which my officials are considering in detail.

We have been clear that we will ensure that financial barriers don't prevent essential fire safety work from being done, and I wanted to reply to you now to give you further detail about how as a landlord you can determine what work will be necessary, and when support will be available.

As you may know, the Building Research Establishment is currently carrying out further tests to determine the fire safety risks associated with buildings. Those tests are well underway, and as we get results we will be writing separately to authorities who may be affected based on information that authorities have already provided about buildings in their area. This will be an on-going process over the next few weeks. If you would like to receive updates about the progress of these tests, you can sign up for alerts at – www.gov.uk/guidance/building-safety-programme

Our expectation is that, as a building owner, you will fund measures designed to make a

building fire safe, and will draw on your existing resources to do so.

Local fire services should provide advice on the essential safety measures to make residential buildings safe, and alongside this landlords should take professional advice (e.g. from a qualified engineer with relevant experience in fire safety) on any essential work they may need to take on their cladding system to make it safe. Essential work would be any measures required to meet the requirements of current Building Regulations guidance.

Once you have a clear idea of the work that is deemed to be essential, if you still have concerns about funding essential fire safety measures, you should approach us again as soon as possible to discuss your position. Where works have been advised by local fire services to be essential to ensure the fire safety of a building, we will ensure that lack of financial resources will not prevent them going ahead. Any support provided would not include general improvements, or enhancements to buildings, which go beyond this.

Whilst we recognise the desire to carry out other work, if this is not deemed essential, this is a decision that must be taken by and funded by the local authority. If you would like to discuss the matter further then please do get in touch again, or you can send an email to localauthorityhousing@communities.gsi.gov.uk .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP