



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP

By e-mail

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
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Thank you inviting me a stock-take meeting in respect of the Assistant Deputy Coroner's Rule 43 reports following her inquests into the six deaths at Lakanal House in July 2009.

Whilst I am unable to attend the meeting on 30 October, it is absolutely important to ensure that all the lessons from this tragedy are learned and that, where necessary, appropriate action is taken. This letter therefore updates you, and the other invitees, on the action my Department has – or is - taking on those recommendations which were under consideration at the time of my response of 20 May.

The Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser is continuing to work with the sector on the development of new Generic Risk Assessment guidance on high rise fire-fighting. The high profile nature of this issue has generated significant levels of professional interest and it is important that we get the guidance right.

The Local Government Association confirmed in June that those involved in the development of the existing guidance on fire safety in purpose built blocks of flats are satisfied that it remains appropriate in the light of the Coroner's recommendations. We therefore continue to make it available to on the fire safety pages of the Government's website.

My officials are looking again at whether the Department may be able to offer greater clarity in respect of enforcement expectations in residential buildings where both the Fire Safety Order and the Housing Act apply, following a request for further guidance from the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and London Fire Brigade.

Finally, we have recently completed our review of the guidance issued by the Fenestration Self Assessment Scheme for window installers and other related competent persons. We will announce shortly our plans to ensure the arrangements are clear and comprehensive.

I trust you will find this helpful and are assured of our commitment to minimising the risk of a similar tragedy occurring in the future.

RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP

