



SIR DAVID AMESS MP
Member of Parliament for Southend West

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

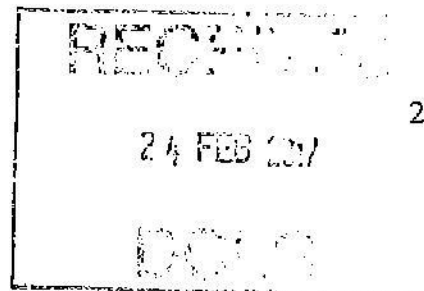
ALL- PARTY PARLIAMENTARY FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE GROUP



Chairman: Sir David Amess MP
Vice Chairs: Chris Davies MP Mary Glendon MP
Secretary: Jim Fitzpatrick MP Treasurer: Peter Aldous MP

Hon Administrative Secretary: Ronnie King OBE, OSt.J, QFSM

Gavin Barwell MP, Minister of State,
Department for Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



20th February 2017

Dear Gavin,

I do not appear to have received a response to either of my letters of the 7th and 22nd November 2016 respectively, and I would very much wish to avoid having to seek answers through a Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State.

The two issues which remain of great concern to the Group are as follows:

1. There is clear inconsistency in the reply which you gave to myself in your letter of the 14th November 2016, relating to the fire safety aspects of building regulations, when you said that you would be making a statement in due course; and that it would be better and more constructive to wait until after this statement had been made before convening a meeting with you. Whereas the answer contained in your response to a Parliamentary question from Steve McCabe MP on the Review of Building Regulations (Fire Safety) Approved Document B – Hansard 24th October 2016 Volume 616: “When does he plan to make an announcement on his Department's review of building regulations”? [906738]

Telephone [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

Constituency Office [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

Surgeries: The First and Third Fridays in each month at Iveagh Hall, 67 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1JW.

All starting at 2 pm. An appointment can be made by telephoning the Constituency Office.



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Answer from: The Minister for Housing and Planning (Gavin Barwell)

"We have not set out any formal plans to review the building regulations as a whole,

but we have publicly committed ourselves to reviewing part B following the

Lakanal House fire. During the passage of the Bill that became the Housing and

Planning Act 2016, we made a commitment to review the energy-efficiency standards for buildings in part L."

I brought this inconsistency to your attention in my letter of the 22nd November

2016, and have still not had a response some three months later!

2. In relation to my letters of the 20th June 2016, and 12th September 2016, which appear to have been misplaced in the Department, we have still not received a response regarding the Tower Block fire in Westcliffe-on-Sea as outlined in my letter to your predecessor of 20th June 2016; and presumably neither has the Secretary of the Balmoral Residents Association, whose email was also attached, together with an extract from the Group's meeting on the 24th May last. (I forwarded a further copy of this letter with my letter to yourself of the 22nd November 2016).

The Group is extremely concerned to learn that the secretary of the Residents' Association for a block of flats in which a pregnant woman died in a fire, has still not received a response from the Department responsible for these matters.

Lastly can I draw your attention to an exchange of correspondence between myself, on behalf of the Group, and the Rt. Hon, Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in relation to the social, environmental and economic impacts of fire damage, in which the Chancellor encourages the Group to continue engaging with lead departments to ensure the views of the APPG are represented. (copies enclosed with this letter)

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In view of the issues raised above, I trust that you will agree to a meeting with the All-Party Group as a matter of urgency.

With all good wishes,

Sir David Amess MP
Chairman

Enclosed: Exchanges of correspondence with Chancellor of the Exchequer

Copies: Chris Davies MP
Mary Glendon MP
Peter Aldous MP
Jim Fitzpatrick MP

Telephone [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

Constituency Office [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

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