



RESTRICTED – POLICY

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

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Yvette Cooper MP
Minister for Housing and Planning
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~~Administrative~~ Department for information
TRACEY ELL Previous MSU case:
PS/DPM PS/Perm Sec PS/All Ministers PS/S.Advisers
Peter Unwin **ANNE HEMMING**
Andrew Pearson **ANTHONY BOND**

TONY LORD

24 May 2005

Yvette Cooper

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR AMENDING PART B (FIRE SAFETY) OF THE BUILDING REGULATIONS 2000 AND APPROVED DOCUMENT B

Phil Hope's letter to me of 29 March sought policy clearance to publish for public consultation the Government's proposals for amending Part B of the Building Regulations and accompanying guidance. This letter confirms policy clearance subject to taking account of the points below.

Responses to Phil Hope's letter were received from Alan Johnson (Department for Work and Pensions – 12 April) and Norman Warner (Department for Health – 12 April).

Alan was content for the revised document to be published provided that consultation included organisations representing disabled people in order to ensure that proper consideration was given in the legislation and accompanying guidance to the needs of disabled people with regard to fire safety and evacuation. He noted that the Health and Safety Executive had been involved but said that DWP also led on disability rights and promoting the Government's policies to enable disabled people to participate more fully in society. He was therefore concerned that any proposals to revise fire safety legislation should take full account of the needs of disabled people. I understand that your officials have agreed to include in the consultation organisations representing disabled people.

Norman was content but stressed that his officials may wish to comment on its effect on National Health Service and social care providers. They would like to discuss with

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yours the work that they are carrying out in respect of changes in the fire code for hospital premises. He said that it was crucial that the consultation included the major UK care home providers and suggested a list of stakeholders covering these. I understand that your officials have agreed to involve these stakeholders in the consultation.

As no other colleagues responded, you may take it that you have DA clearance, subject to the conditions raised above.

Phil Hope also requested PRA clearance by correspondence and no member of PRA Committee replied. Number 10 have therefore indicated that they are content to give PRA clearance as you proposed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, DA and PRA colleagues and Sir Andrew Turnbull.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

JOHN PRESCOTT