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Consultation on Part B of the Building Regulations and Approved Document B (Fire Safety)

The attached submission recommends that you agree that we go out to consultation very quickly on proposals which will support a fire prevention strategy, the consultation has now been cleared by both DA committee and PRA following the election.

We have had a discussion with you about Building Regulations generally and touched on a possible new direction, including the idea of a pause. However, Part B may be one area you may wish to take a view on separately from that wider consideration and our advice is that the Part B work should be allowed to proceed.

By including within the Part B consultation both areas where the Government is considering action, and where it remains to be convinced, the available policy options are maximized. I would therefore specifically draw your attention to annexes C (significant 'intended' changes) and D ('minded to' changes) of Anthony Burd's attached submission.

There is already huge expectation amongst stakeholders that this consultation is imminent (the previous commitment was to consult "in the Spring") and prompt consultation should head off what could prove well organised lobby campaigns. The issues are emotive relating to residential care homes, fire safety in warehouses and tall buildings. Rather than a potentially uninformed campaign, our view is that it would be more productive for Government to consult on its preferred direction supported by the Regulatory Impact Assessment.

Anne Hemming