

From: Brian Martin </O=DCLGORG/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BRIAN.MARTIN>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 11:17 AM
To: PSMARKPrisk <PSMARKPrisk@communities.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: PSDonFoster <PSDonFoster@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; PSBrandonLewis <PSBrandonLewis@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Louise Upton <Louise.Upton@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Ken Bromley <Ken.Bromley@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Bob Ledsome <Bob.Ledsome@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Anthony Burd <Anthony.Burd@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Dawn Eastmead <Dawn.Eastmead@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Peter Holland <Peter.Holland@communities.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Shirley Towers - bracket and clasp advice

Hi Laura

This article is a little inflammatory. Whilst the headline states "Ministers veto Coroners plan" the body of the article explains what actions the Department has actually taken.

The issue relates to the way that electrical cables are fixed to ceilings. For some years now, particularly in social housing, replacement cables have been fixed to the surface of ceilings inside plastic trunking (this is a quick and cheap method).

There have been a number of fires where the trunking has softened at an early stage in the fire and the cables have fallen across the corridor. This creates a significant hazard for fire-fighters and has been implicated in a number of incidents including Shirley Towers and Lakanal House. The Fire and Rescue Service are aware of the risks and have taken some steps to deal with them.

The Department could, make changes to Building Regulations guidance to make the use of metal cables supports a requirement. However, this would introduce new regulatory costs and is unlikely to meet the Government's current regulatory policy (cost effectiveness & one in two out etc). This would only impact on new installations, not existing ones (it has been suggested, by some, that existing installations should be rectified too).

What we have done, as set out in the article, is raise this matter with the relevant standards committee. They will consider it and amend the standard if they think it appropriate to do so. If they do amend the standard then it is likely that most new installations would take this into account but it would not be a statutory requirement.

It may be that the Department would reference an amended version of the standard at some point in the future in Building Regulations (this would still be subject to satisfying regulatory policy at that time).

The Department's formal response was set out in a letter to the Coroner by Peter Holland, Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, which was cleared by Brandon Lewis. (sub attached).

If you need any more advice please let me know.

Brian Martin
Building Regulations and Standards Div
[REDACTED]

From: PSMARKPrisk
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 5:59 PM
To: Louise Upton; Dawn Eastmead
Cc: PSBrandonLewis; PSMARKPrisk; PSEricPickles
Subject: Shirley Towers - bracket and clasp advice

Hi Louise/Dawn,

I was hoping you could help me understand the background behind this story (apologies that I seem to have scanned it twice).

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The Minister is keen to understand the background and its not immediately ringing any bells (I keep coming back to

sprinklers which I realise is a different issue!). Would you able to send me an email or give me a call just to bring me up to speed please?

Many thanks,

Laura

Mark Prisk MP
Minister of State

Private Secretary - Mark Livesey x [REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary - Laura Wilkinson x [REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary - Eva Judge x [REDACTED]

Diary Secretary - Ushma Patel x [REDACTED]

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