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Dear Sir George.

17 JUN 2010

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL - BUILDING REGULATIONS (REVIEW) BILL
INTRODUCED BY LORD HARRISON ON 26TH MAY 2010**

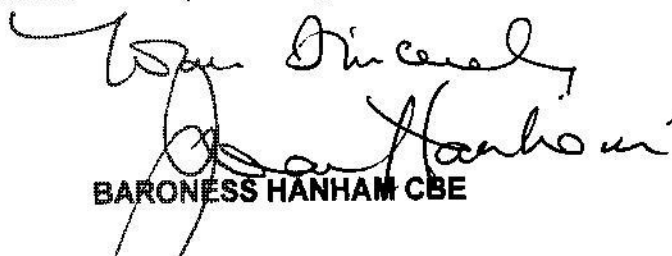
I am seeking the agreement of Parliamentary Business Committee to express strong reservations regarding this Bill that was introduced into the House on 26 May 2010 with Second Reading due to be scheduled shortly.

Lord Harrison's Bill seeks to make provision for a review of the Building Regulations 2000 with regard to implementing the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in all new residential properties.

The issue of fire sprinkler systems and other fire suppression technologies is something which my Department has already considered at length. The most recent review of the fire safety aspects of the Building Regulations (Part B) came into effect in April 2007. The extensive review that preceded the development of this new guidance considered a four year research project looking at the issue of residential and domestic sprinklers from both an effectiveness and cost/benefit perspective.

This is the second time Lord Harrison has introduced this Bill. The first, which was for the Building Regulations to be amended to include provisions to require new residential properties to be fitted with sprinklers, was not completed by the election. However, both the then Government and then Opposition expressed considerable concern about the proposals.

Whilst there is some scope for further work in this area in the future, a statutory commitment to commence such work at this time would limit my Departments ability to respond to changing priorities and more pressing issues. For this reason, this Department has strong reservations about this Bill proceeding to law.


BARONESS HANHAM CBE



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11 October 2010

Don. Ben

**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE: BUILDING REGULATIONS
(REVIEW) (HOUSE OF LORDS) PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL**

Thank you for your letter of 17 June which sought Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee clearance on how to respond to the Building Regulations (Review) Bill.

No members of PBL Committee responded therefore I am granting PBL clearance for you to express strong reservations about the Bill in the House of Lords and, should it reach the House of Commons, to oppose it.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of PBL Committee, First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Gus O'Donnell.

L. Young

Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP

Baroness Hanham
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

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