

EVIDENCE TO THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

PURSUANT TO RULE 9

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF ALASTAIR
JOHN MACKENZIE SOANE**

EXHIBIT AJMS-2

Emails between Alastair Soane and Brian Martin in 2016 on Cladding Fires

Re: Cladding fires



Alastair Soane [REDACTED]

To: Brian Martin Brian.Martin@communities.gsi.gov.uk;

25/02/16 17:04

1

Sent

Many thanks Brian and we will just leave this topic unless anything else happens.

Best wishes

Alastair

Alastair Soane BSc PhD CEng FStructE FICE
Director, Structural-Safety

[REDACTED]
www.structural-safety.org

From: Brian Martin <Brian.Martin@communities.gsi.gov.uk>

To: "[REDACTED]"

Sent: Wednesday, 24 February 2016, 9:08

Subject: Re: Cladding fires

Hi Alastair.

If people are getting things right then we shouldn't see a similar incident here.

As I understand it, the problems in Dubai relate to panels of Aluminium Composite Material.

Essentially thin layers of Aluminium sandwiching a polymer core. there are a number of products available, some with fire retardants in the core some without.

ADB gives guidance on this by saying that the external walls should not provide a medium for fire spread in tall buildings.

It then offers two approaches, a set of rules or a full scale test.

In the rules, we deliberately added the word "filler" to address things that form part of the cladding system that are not insulation but could provide a medium for fire spread.

I think the core of an ACP panel could reasonably be considered to be a "filler". So, unless the core material meets the "rules" then the AD suggests a full scale test.

From: Alastair Soane [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 08:45 AM GMT Standard Time
To: Brian Martin
Cc: Nick Price
Subject: Re: Cladding fires

Good to hear from you Brian as it is some time since we met on BRAC.

My job these days is with Structural-Safety where we produce information for industry on lessons that can be learned. We were interested to read about the recent fire in Dubai which seems to involved the cladding panels. Do we have any similar panels in the UK and is there is risk of anything like this happening here?

Depending upon the level of possibility of risk we could produce an Alert.

Regards

Alastair

Alastair Soane BSc PhD CEng FStructE FICE
Director, Structural-Safety
[REDACTED]
www.structural-safety.org

From: Brian Martin <Brian.Martin@communities.gsi.gov.uk>
To: " [REDACTED] "
Cc: Nick Price <Nick.Price@communities.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2016, 9:32
Subject: RE: Cladding fires

Hi Alastair.

My contact details below

Brian.martin@communities.gsi.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

From: Alastair Soane [\[mailto:\[REDACTED\]\]](mailto:[REDACTED])
Sent: 15 February 2016 09:37
To: Nick Price
Subject: Cladding fires

Nick

At the last Structural-Safety meeting we discussed the fire at the Address Downtown hotel in Dubai and wondered whether there was a risk of such an event in the UK. It was suggested that I contact Brian Martin (who I remember well from my time at BRAC) but do not have his email address. If you feel it would be appropriate to ask him can you let me have this?

Regards

Alastair

Alastair Soane BSc PhD CEng FIStructE FICE
Director, Structural-Safety
[REDACTED]
www.structural-safety.org

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