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Subject: Grenfell Tower - External Cladding

We note that the barrier against fire spread between floors is provided through the connection of the structural floors to the existing external walls. The existing external walls are expected to provide sufficient fire resistance to prevent fire from entering the cavities at or near floor or ceiling level.

We would not rule out that fire could enter the cavity if there is flaming through the windows. However, if significant flames are ejected from the windows, this would lead to failure of the cladding system, with the external surface falling away and exposing the cavity, eliminating the potential for unseen fire spread. A standard cavity barrier should be sufficient to prevent fire spread between floors while there remains a cavity.

In view of the above, we do not feel that there should be a need for a 2-hour rated fire break in the cavities along the lines of the compartment floors or walls.