
GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

POSITION STATEMENT OF KINGSPAN INSULATION LIMITED

1 REQUEST FOR POSITION STATEMENT

- 1.1 Kingspan Insulation Limited¹ ("**Kingspan Insulation**") expresses its deepest sympathies to the bereaved families, survivors and everyone affected by the tragic events which occurred at Grenfell Tower. Understanding the causes of the fire and the events leading up to it is of great importance and Kingspan Insulation is committed to providing its full cooperation and assistance to the Inquiry, in order both to understand what happened and to prevent similar tragedies occurring in the future.
- 1.2 On 18 April 2018, Kingspan Insulation received from the Public Inquiry an invitation to become a Core Participant, which it accepted on 27 April 2018. Prior to becoming a Core Participant, Kingspan Insulation provided disclosure to the Inquiry as further detailed in paragraph 4.2(b) below.
- 1.3 This Statement responds to the Inquiry's Request for a Position Statement dated 15 May 2018 (the "**Request**") which, in the context of developing the Inquiry's understanding of the roles played in the management and refurbishment of Grenfell Tower, asked Kingspan Insulation to respond to three questions. Each of these questions is set out below, followed by Kingspan Insulation's response.

2 INVOLVEMENT IN REFURBISHMENT OF GRENFELL TOWER

- 2.1 The Request asked that Kingspan Insulation "*describe the nature of [Kingspan Insulation's] involvement and that of any associated companies or bodies, identify all those with whom any of them entered into relationships, whether contractual or not, in order to carry out their roles and describe the purpose for which they entered into each of those relationships*".
- 2.2 Kingspan Insulation is a leading provider of rigid insulation boards and industrial insulation products to the UK construction industry, for use in both the commercial and residential sectors. More than 90% of Kingspan Insulation products in the UK are sold through the distribution channel to specialist distributors, builder merchants and system providers, with less than 10% being sold directly to building contractors and end users.
- 2.3 Kingspan Insulation was not involved in the design, specification or implementation of the 2015-2016 refurbishment of Grenfell Tower (the "**Refurbishment**").
- 2.4 It was only after the fire that Kingspan Insulation became aware that some of its products had been used in the Refurbishment, as set out below.
- 2.5 Furthermore, as far as it has been able to establish, Kingspan Insulation was not approached or otherwise asked to provide (and did not provide) any information or technical guidance about any of its products for use in the Refurbishment.

¹ Kingspan Insulation Limited is incorporated in England & Wales, company number 1882722, with its registered office at Torville Industrial Estate, Pembroge, Leominster HR6 9LA, and is wholly owned by Kingspan Group plc.

2.6 As far as it has been able to establish, Kingspan Insulation did not provide any products directly to, and had no contractual relationship with, any of the relevant building contractors for the purposes of the Refurbishment.

Kooltherm K15 Rainscreen Board

2.7 A few days after the fire, Kingspan Insulation was informed by SIG Trading Limited ("**SIG**") (a distributor of specialist building products) that it had supplied a small quantity of Kooltherm K15 Rainscreen Board ("**Kooltherm K15**") for use in the Refurbishment.² Kingspan Insulation understands from SIG that deliveries of c. 96 sheets of Celotex RS5080 were made to Grenfell Tower on a weekly basis between May and September 2015 and that Kooltherm K15 was used in substitution for the Celotex product in respect of a single delivery.

2.8 Following a review of documents disclosed to the Inquiry by SIG, Kingspan Insulation understands that:

- (a) Harley Curtain Wall Ltd ("**Harley**") submitted a purchase order to SIG on 25 March 2015 for 4,268 square metres of Celotex RS5080 for delivery to Grenfell Tower³;
- (b) On 26 May 2015, SIG informed Harley that the delivery of Celotex RS5080 scheduled for 3 June 2015 had been pushed back by Celotex to 10 June 2015⁴; and
- (c) Later that day, Harley submitted to SIG a purchase order for 276 square metres (96 sheets) of Kooltherm K15 of 80mm thickness⁵ and explained that "*this quantity should be taken off the total PO on the Celotex order issued on 25/03/15*".⁶

2.9 It is understood from Professor Bisby's Report that the Celotex RS5080 (being the 80mm thick version of its RS5000 range of insulation) was installed on the spandrel beams in Grenfell Tower⁷ whereas Celotex RS5100 (being 100mm thick) was installed on the columns in Grenfell Tower.⁸ Because the Kooltherm K15 delivered to Grenfell Tower was also 80mm thick, Kingspan Insulation understands that Kooltherm K15 was installed on the spandrel beams.

2.10 Assuming the accuracy of the above information, it follows that Kooltherm K15 constitutes roughly 6.5% of the rainscreen insulation boards installed on the spandrel beams of Grenfell Tower. This is consistent with Professor Bisby's observation in paragraph 286 of his report that "*the predominant form of rainscreen cavity thermal insulation found on spandrel beams during post-fire investigations of Grenfell Tower is ... Celotex RS5000 PIR polymer foam insulation*".⁹ In addition, it is consistent with Dr Barbara Lane's statement at paragraph 11.12.2 of her report, that "*I have concluded from review of the purchase orders that 276m² Kingspan K15 was purchased for installation on Grenfell Tower [SIG00000012].*"

² This information was passed to Richard Burnley (Managing Director of Kingspan Insulation for Britain and Ireland) at about 17.00 on 16 June 2017 when he returned a telephone call from the General Manager of SIG Ruislip.

³ SIG00000010

⁴ SIG00000013

⁵ SIG00000012

⁶ SIG00000013

⁷ LBXR00000001_0074, paragraph 286

⁸ *Ibid*, paragraph 284

⁹ *Ibid*

- 2.11 The 96 sheets of Kooltherm K15 delivered to Grenfell Tower were ordered from Kingspan Insulation by SIG under purchase order 1000420396 dated 26 May 2015 and delivered to SIG on 28 May 2015.¹⁰ Kingspan Insulation was not informed that those 96 sheets were intended for delivery to Grenfell Tower, and it was not until two weeks after the fire, following a visual inspection of the building, that Kingspan Insulation was able to establish that some Kooltherm K15 had been installed on Grenfell Tower.
- 2.12 Kingspan Insulation did not give any guidance as to the suitability of Kooltherm K15 for use in the Refurbishment. The "*Behaviour in relation to fire*" part of the BBA Certificate for Kooltherm K15 in place as at May 2015¹¹ detailed a specific cladding construction which, when tested to BS 8414-1 : 2002, met the criteria in BRE Report BR 135: 2013.¹² A footnote confirmed that "*the test result relates only to this specific construction and a separate test would be required to establish the performance of any other combination of materials*".¹³
- 2.13 The cladding used on Grenfell Tower was not the cladding construction specified in paragraph 8.2 of the Certificate nor was it one of the other cladding constructions which had been successfully tested by Kingspan Insulation for use with Kooltherm K15 before May 2015. Kingspan Insulation was not asked to provide further details of the indicative construction specified either in paragraph 8.2 of the BBA Certificate or in its other published test results.

Kingspan Thermapitch TP10/Thermawall TW55

- 2.14 Not until Kingspan Insulation was appointed as a Core Participant and it received access to Dr Barbara Lane's and Professor Luke Bisby's expert reports, did it become aware that Thermapitch TP10 (which is also marketed as Thermawall TW55) was used in the Refurbishment.
- 2.15 Section 11.13 of Dr Barbara Lane's Report explains that she has identified "*(a) 25mm foil faced rigid insulation board with the green lettering printed on the foil; and (b) 25mm foil faced rigid insulation board with partial red Celotex logo printed on the foil*" "*installed around the window linings behind the UPVC surround*". Dr Lane identifies these products as potentially being Kingspan Thermapitch TP10 and Celotex TB4000 respectively. No indication is given as to the how much of each product was identified during Dr Lane's inspections. To date, Kingspan Insulation has been unable to determine the supply route of this product for use in the Refurbishment. Kingspan Insulation did not supply this product directly to the contractors, and it is likely to have been supplied via a builders' merchant or distributor. Kingspan Insulation was not asked to provide nor did it provide any technical guidance as to the use of this product for use in the Refurbishment.
- 2.16 Thermapitch TP10 is designed and marketed as a "*high performance pitched roof insulation*" which is "*suitable for tiled or slated pitched warm roof spaces*".¹⁴ Thermawall TW55 is designed and marketed as a "*high performance insulation with a fibre-free rigid thermoset polyisocyanurate core*" which is "*used to insulate timber and steel framed systems*".¹⁵

¹⁰ Copies of documents associated with this order and delivery were provided to the Inquiry on 5 October 2017.

¹¹ KIN00000454

¹² *Ibid*, paragraph 8.2

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ <https://www.kingspan.com/gb/en-gb/products/insulation/insulation-boards/therma/thermapitch-tp10>

¹⁵ <https://www.kingspan.com/irl/en-ie/product-groups/insulation/insulation-boards/therma/thermawall-tw55>

Kooltherm FM Pipe Insulation

- 2.17 On 20 July 2017, Denco Thermal Limited ("**Denco**") confirmed to Kingspan Insulation that it had installed Kooltherm FM Pipe Insulation in Grenfell Tower. The Kooltherm FM Pipe Insulation used in the Refurbishment was not supplied directly to Denco by Kingspan Insulation. Through enquiries made by Kingspan Insulation of SIG, it has been confirmed that between 5 June and 16 September 2015, SIG supplied 1,515 linear metres of Kooltherm FM Pipe Insulation to Denco for use in the Refurbishment. SIG has confirmed that Denco's orders of this product were fulfilled from general stock held by SIG and they have been unable to tie any supply of the product to a specific purchase order made to Kingspan Insulation.
- 2.18 Kingspan Insulation was not informed by SIG that any Kooltherm FM Pipe Insulation was intended for supply to Grenfell Tower for use in the Refurbishment. Kingspan Insulation was not asked to provide (and did not provide) any technical guidance about the use of Kooltherm FM Pipe Insulation in the Refurbishment.

Booth Muirie Limited

- 2.19 Booth Muirie Limited¹⁶ ("**Booth Muirie**") was acquired by Kingspan Group plc on 30 April 2016. For completeness, it is noted that Booth Muirie, was asked by Harley to provide two quotations (3 March 2015 (revised 11 March 2015) and 8 July 2015) for the supply of aluminium composite panels (ACMs) as listed on a schedule of fabrication drawings and an outline specification sent by Harley for the Refurbishment of Grenfell Tower.
- 2.20 Neither of the quotations referred to above were accepted by Harley, and Booth Muirie did not provide any products to Harley or any other building contractors for the purposes of the Refurbishment.

3 DOCUMENTS RELATING TO RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS

- 3.1 The Request asked that Kingspan Insulation "*identify the key documents governing or relating to those relationships*".
- 3.2 As Kingspan Insulation had no direct involvement in the Refurbishment and was not aware that its products were being used in the Refurbishment, it holds no documents of the type requested.

4 STEPS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRE AT GRENFELL TOWER

- 4.1 The Request asked Kingspan Insulation to "*identify the steps, if any, Kingspan has taken in response to the fire at Grenfell Tower*".
- 4.2 Kingspan Insulation has taken a number of steps in response to the fire at Grenfell Tower, including the following:
- (a) as described more fully above, Kingspan Insulation has taken steps to establish which of its products were used during the Refurbishment;

¹⁶ Booth Muirie Limited is incorporated in England and Wales, company number 07090842, with its registered office at Wentloog Corporate Park, Wentloog, Cardiff, CF3 2ER, and is also wholly owned by Kingspan Group plc.

- (b) Kingspan Insulation has fully engaged with the Inquiry from the outset, including providing it with a substantial volume of documents in October 2017 and February, March and April 2018. These disclosures, as requested, included copies of technical documents and testing results relating to Kooltherm K15 and Thermapitch TP10/Thermawall TW55 as well as marketing materials;
- (c) Kingspan Insulation has fully engaged with the Metropolitan Police investigation, including providing a witness statement and supporting documents to the Police;
- (d) Kingspan Insulation has engaged fully with Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety and answered all questions asked of it. Such engagement has included various communications, written submissions and a meeting in person with the review team;
- (e) Kingspan Insulation, in conjunction with Efectis UK, has carried out further fire tests at the University of Ulster in accordance with the ISO 13785-1 standard on various facade systems using a combination of different ACMs and insulants. These tests were conducted to ascertain whether this method of testing might be a good intermediate scale proxy for BS8414 testing and also to study whether toxic combustion products are released by these systems. Copies of these reports were provided to the Inquiry on 16 February 2018;
- (f) Kingspan Insulation, in partnership with others, has stepped up its existing programme of BS8414 testing of systems using Kooltherm K15, with a particular focus following the Grenfell tragedy on systems using Kooltherm K15 in conjunction with ACMs;
- (g) Kingspan Insulation has commissioned Tenos and Efectis to conduct reviews of the BS8414 test methodology, which have confirmed it to be a reliable and robust test; and
- (h) Kingspan Insulation has met with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ("MHCLG") Building Safety Expert panel members and shared with MHCLG its test data and technical assessments. Kingspan Insulation has also responded to the MHCLG consultation on desktop studies.

Gowling WLG (UK) LLP

30 May 2018