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Press release

Government releases funding to replace unsafe cladding

The government has released the first tranche of an estimated £400 million to remove and replace unsafe cladding on social sector high-rise housing.

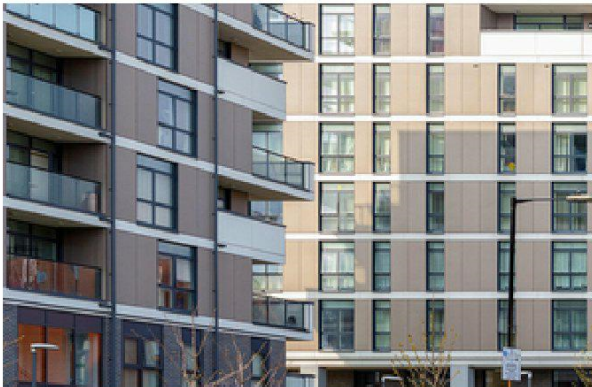
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From:

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government>) and

The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/james-brokenshire>)



The government has started distributing an estimated £400 million to remove and replace unsafe aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding systems on social sector high-rise housing in England owned by social landlords.

Twelve local authorities and 31 housing associations are being told today (17 October 2018) that they have been allocated the money they need to cover the cost of removing and replacing unsafe ACM cladding from social, residential buildings they own which are 18 metres or higher.

This funding will enable local authorities and housing associations to get on with the job of making their buildings safe without having an impact on other vital services. As work is ongoing, costs are subject to change, and that is why the government will be closely monitoring progress.

Secretary of State for Communities, the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

There is nothing more important than ensuring people are safe in their homes and that is why I am pleased the £400 million funding has started to be released.

We are doing the right thing by residents and fully funding the replacement of unsafe ACM cladding in social housing buildings 18 metres or above.

In the private sector, I want to see landlords protect leaseholders from these costs. I am pleased that a number have stepped forward to do so, including Barratt Developments, Legal & General, Taylor Wimpey, Mace and Peabody. However, there are some who are not engaging in this process. If they don't, I have ruled nothing out.

The latest figures from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government show that over 75% of social housing buildings with unsafe ACM cladding have completed remediation or are currently removing and replacing the cladding, with plans in place for the remaining 25%. Interim fire safety measures are in place in all affected buildings to keep residents safe until the cladding has been replaced.

Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the government established a comprehensive building safety programme that included an independent review of fire safety and building regulations.

The government published its response to this review and, following consultation, has confirmed that it is banning the use of combustible materials on all residential high-rise buildings above 18 metres so that people are safe in their homes now, and in the future. Full details of the ban and how the recommendations of the Hackitt review will be implemented will be published later this year.

Further information

Application process and distribution of funds

Applications for 159 buildings have been received to date and 135 applications have been approved in this first tranche of funding.

Twelve applications were not eligible for funding because they didn't meet the application criteria – for example the buildings are below 18 metres, owned by commercial freeholders or the cladding is not ACM.

Twelve applications have been deferred while building owners provide further information so that we can confirm eligibility.

There is nothing more important than ensuring people are safe in their homes and so the department has taken the view that applications received after the 31 August deadline will still be reviewed.

The government is paying 80% of the estimated eligible costs up front when work starts, with the remaining 20% when the work is complete and final costs are known. The funding allocated so far comes to £248 million.

Latest building safety data

The government publishes the latest building safety data (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-safety-programme#data-on-the-building-safety-programme>) it holds on a monthly basis, showing how many buildings are in the process of removing and replacing unsafe ACM cladding.

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