



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
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Dear Sir Ken,

RE: Structural design of cladding systems

I am writing to make you aware of and provide further detail on an issue that has been raised with the Department and on which I would like the advice of the expert panel.

Earlier this year, the British Board of Agrement shared a report to a number of Government Departments and agencies including BEIS, DCLG, OFFgen, and HSE which identified widespread shortfalls in the quality of structural design calculations for cladding systems. In particular, this related to design calculations necessary to ensure that cladding systems were able to adequately resist wind loadings.

The report followed BBA investigations in to cladding which fell off a number of tower blocks in Glasgow. I have attached the relevant reports which were submitted – the first (Annex A) was an abbreviated version of the full report (Annex B).

In summary, the report suggests that poor or erroneous design practice has eroded safety factors to the extent that it is possible that some installations pose a risk to life safety, in particular buildings over 15 storeys, or over six storeys in areas of exposure to high wind speeds.

Whilst these are not specifically fire related issues, I am concerned that there could be life safety implications and that further action may be needed to ensure adequate design in the future, as well as to address residual risks in existing cladding installations.

I recognise that you may need to seek specific expert advice in order to support your

work, and officials have made arrangements for consultation with the standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) on that basis.

The specific questions on which I would like the expert panel's views are as follow;

1. To undertake peer review of BBA findings and assessments and provide advice as to what further assessment might be necessary to fully understand the implications of their findings.
2. To consider and advise on what steps are necessary to ensure that adequate structural design and checking is undertaken going forward, including commenting on the attached draft circular letter to building control bodies and building owners.
3. To consider BBA proposals for risk assessment of existing installations and advise government accordingly as to what steps are necessary, and what advice if any should be issued.

I would like to move swiftly for establish a suitable plan of action and look forward to your advice. The Department also intends to write to building control bodies and building owners on this matter and I attach a copy of the proposed draft on which I would welcome the views of the expert panel.



THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP