



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

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Government**
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18th October 2017

To: Local Authority Chief Executives,

Identifying all residential tower blocks with Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding: New Burdens Assessment Update

I wrote to you on 5th September to provide guidance on how information on private sector buildings should be collected and provided to DCLG as per the Secretary of State's letter of 11th August.

In my letter I stated that we were assessing the cost implications to you of carrying out this work, in line with the Government's New Burdens Doctrine. We have now completed that assessment and I am writing to you to confirm the outcome of that process.

We have followed the New Burdens doctrine when assessing new burdens on local authorities, and have concluded that the following tasks do constitute a new burden:

- Collecting the data (as outlined in the letter of 5th September)
- Returning it to DCLG in a particular format.

We have also concluded that the following tasks do not constitute a new burden:

- Getting legal advice on taking enforcement action against uncooperative landlords
- Taking any necessary enforcement action

Whilst these tasks do not constitute a new burden, we will continue to have discussions with local authorities on these issues.

We have worked closely with local authorities to understand the resource required to carry out this data collection to create a fair distribution of payments, so that those with the largest number of buildings receive the most money, based on the data available during the time of the assessment of the number of relevant private sector high-rise residential tower blocks in each area. We have also included a provision for start up costs.

The total figure we are transferring to local authorities is £289,000, and the payment will be made in the next few weeks.

Please note this assessment relates to – and the additional funding is provided for – the collection and submission of data. It is not intended to cover any necessary remediation work, which is the responsibility of building owners.

If you have any further questions, please contact
housingchecks@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for all you are doing to keep your residents safe following the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. M. Finkelstein', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TAMARA FINKELSTEIN
Director General – Building Safety Programme