



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lord Greenhalgh

*Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire and
Communities*

**Department for Levelling up, Housing and
Communities**

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Dame Judith Hackitt
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10 January 2022

Dear Dame Judith,

Thank you for the continued work of the Industry Safety Steering Group (ISSG) to drive industry to change its unacceptable behaviours and culture that contributed to the fire at Grenfell Tower and other safety issues that have since been uncovered.

I read with interest the ISSG's Third Annual Report on progress being made by the industry. While it is encouraging to see examples of good practice, I agree that it is disappointing and unacceptable that those remain the exception rather than the norm. Significant parts of the industry are failing to do the right thing by residents, and we must protect leaseholders from facing the burden of decades of industry failure. It is right that industry – particularly those firms who wield significant influence over the supply-chain - must go further and faster to regain public and market confidence. They must do this by taking responsibility for remediating safety issues in existing buildings and by changing practice and norms to make safe and high-quality buildings in the future.

From reading the report, there are three areas where I believe that all responsible leaders across the sector – especially large developers, contractors, freeholders and product manufacturers - must do more:

- We need accountability and atonement from those that have manufactured dangerous products and developed dangerous buildings. Those who created the risk and profited from it should bear the cost of mitigating it.
- We need leaders to put building safety at the heart of their business models and restore common sense to the system. As the report points out, getting the basics right on procurement, competence and assurance in every part of the

design, construction and maintenance of buildings will decisively shift incentives and norms across the sector.

- All firms should be committing to continuous improvement that is both meaningful and independently verifiable. It is encouraging to see the emergence of two industry-led, independently verifiable schemes to drive such change: The Building a Safer Future Charter, and the Code for Construction Product Information. I would expect all players across the supply-chain to be signing up to such schemes, and to use them to level up standards across the sector. I am concerned that too few have done so to date.

The ISSG's report also calls on Government to do more to encourage or force industry to do the right thing, which I agree with. We will use the Building Safety Bill to overhaul the existing regulatory system for buildings and construction products, so that firms that fail to do the right thing can be held to account and will face greater sanctions for doing so, while leaseholders and taxpayers are better protected from costs that should be borne by others. We will also publicly recognise those firms that are acting responsibly, and shame firms that are failing to do the right thing. We will look at ways to ensure that firms' records are increasingly considered in decisions about how taxpayers' money is spent. Firms that lead the way in re-gaining public trust will benefit from doing so, while laggards will learn that it pays to do the right thing.

Thank you for this important report. I look forward to working with you, the ISSG and industry leaders to accelerate the pace of industry-led change across the sector. The public expect nothing less.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Greenhalgh', written in a cursive style.

LORD GREENHALGH