



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
*Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and
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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2022 updating me on your discussion with construction product manufacturers. I would like to thank you for your considerable efforts to convene the sector to move this issue forward, and I welcome agreement by construction product manufacturers that leaseholders should not face bills for unsafe cladding; and for support of the 'polluter pays' concept.

In January, I asked property developers and construction product manufacturers to make a public funding commitment by early March. Unlike the approach taken by developers, manufacturers have failed to make any such commitment. This is simply not good enough.

Your letter proposes several reasons why making such commitments would be challenging or require years of preparatory work. Leaseholders do not have the luxury of waiting years for every building to be assessed before funding is committed, and five years on from the Grenfell Tragedy, there is little in your letter to suggest that manufacturers are ready to show leadership and play their part in bringing this unacceptable situation to an end. The scale of this injustice should have spurred manufacturers into doing more, at speed, and it is disappointing that the sector appears instead to be using it as an excuse to do nothing, slowly.

It is unacceptable that there has been no clear acknowledgement that actions taken by cladding and insulation manufacturers have contributed to the problem, and that manufacturers have individually and collectively failed to come forward with a proposal for playing their part in addressing it. As such, I now consider our negotiations to have concluded.

I have instructed my officials to do whatever it takes to make sure that construction product manufacturers are held to account through the powers that I am establishing in the Building Safety Bill. My new recovery unit will pursue firms that have failed to do the right thing, including through the courts. I will consider carefully how to use other powers at my disposal to make sure that there are significant commercial and reputational consequences for those firms that have not stepped up.

With every good wish,

RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations