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To: Housing Association Chief Executives

Building safety

After the Grenfell Tower fire, the Government set up the Building Safety programme. As part of that local authorities identified all high-rise residential buildings with Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding systems across both the social and private sector. In addition, a screening programme for building owners was established to test the fire safety of cladding systems used on high-rise buildings. Buildings which were found to have systems which failed the combustibility test were expected to be remediated by the building owner. The Government has since pledged £600m to ensure both private and social sector building owners take appropriate action to replace ACM cladding with safe systems.

This programme of work continues and many housing associations have been especially proactive and engaged in the challenge of assessing building safety. The efforts of your staff are very much appreciated and are contributing directly to ensuring the safety of residents.

Data collection exercise on External Wall Systems in high-rise residential buildings

The Building Safety programme continues to consider other safety risks to high-rise buildings and supports action if there is a risk to public safety. The department is therefore asking all housing associations to complete a data collection exercise to identify external wall materials and insulation on all social high-rise residential buildings 18 metres and over they manage.

This exercise is part of an ongoing programme of work to enable the department to build a more complete picture of high-rise residential buildings and the variety of external wall systems in use. This will in turn help local authorities and fire and rescue services to prioritise their inspection and protection work to ensure that building owners are taking the right steps to keep their residents safe. It will also



provide an evidence base for the new regulatory arrangements proposed in our recent consultation '*Building a Safer Future: proposals for reform of the building safety regulatory system*'. The data exercise is structured in such a way that additional questions could be added in the future if this would develop our data set to support this work. The National Housing Federation are supportive of this safety critical work and advise that many housing associations will have already commenced audits of their buildings.

Building identification and use of DELTA

The department will be using the DELTA platform for the data collection process and the attached technical guide can be used to support the exercise. Please note that this exercise covers the social residential stock for which your housing association is responsible. I have separately written, in similar terms, to local authorities, asking them to conduct this exercise for their social and private residential stock, hotels, and student accommodation. Local authorities have been informed they are not required to report on social housing association buildings.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in taking this important work forward.

**Neil O'Connor
Director, Building Safety Programme**