

Building Safety Fund: Application process

A step-by-step guide to the Building Safety Fund application process for the remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding systems.

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Private sector ACM cladding fund: subsidy control guidance and declaration

1. Registering with the fund

The <u>first tranche of the registration process opened in the first week of June 2020</u> and remained open until 31st July 2020.

Buildings which did not register will have further opportunity to apply when the next phase of the Building Safety Funds is opened early in 2022.

Applicants should tell leaseholders and residents once they have registered with the fund.

Once registered, an applicant needs to send evidence to support their claim. This allows the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)) to confirm the building's eligibility.

DLUHC may need to request additional information if not enough supporting evidence is provided. This can slow down the process.



Without the required information, an application will not progress beyond this stage.

Only eligible building work will receive funding. Even if it's undertaken at the same time, non-eligible work must be funded separately.

2. Decision on eligibility

The Department laid amendments to the building Safety Bill on 14 February and 22 March which will fully protect qualifying leaseholders from the costs of cladding remediation.

The Department will continue to make funding available via the Building Safety Fund and other existing funding programmes] / [the Private Sector ACM Cladding Remediation Fund) for buildings currently in scope. This includes funding continuing to be made available for the share of the costs of works attributable to leaseholders who qualify for the Building Safety Bill protections from cladding remediation costs.

The evidence supplied by an applicant is used to determine if a building is eligible for funding. Once all the required information is received, a decision takes at least 4 weeks.

When a building is eligible, the building owner is notified. They are given a delivery partner to support them with their funding application.

When a building is not eligible, building owners will have the option to appeal a decision. A decision on the appeal is made after a full review of the case.

The appeal form can be found here <u>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remediation-of-non-acm-buildings?=6#buildingsafety-fund-appeals-form</u>

Building owners should update leaseholders and residents on the decision that has been made on the eligibility of their building, and on any decisions to appeal.

From 20 January 2022, leaseholders and residents are now able to access information on the status of their building's application for funding via the BSF Leaseholder and Resident Service available here: <u>https://www.building-safety-fund-status.levellingup.gov.uk/</u>

3. First stage of the funding application

The first stage of the funding application includes confirming the applicant's identity and their responsibility for the building. This ensures that any funding is given to the correct individual.

In some complex cases, it can take time to determine who is responsible for the building and to make sure the correct legal information is in place.

At this stage, if a building owner does not have the financial resources to start a project, they can apply for advance funding. This is known as pre-tender support.

The review and approval of a stage one application takes at least 4 weeks.

Building owners should inform leaseholder about the result of the first stage of the funding application.

4. Second stage of the funding application

At this stage, the building owner supplies a detailed project plan and costs.

Once this is submitted, DLUHC works with an applicant to make sure the application is compliant with the fund requirements.

An applicant will need to provide DLUHC with a list of all leaseholders they believe to be economic actors within their building, and their proportion of the total service charge liability in the form of an Economic Actor Schedule. An economic actor would include those who lease commercial premises, such as shops and cafes and anyone renting out their property within the block. Declarations will be required from any residential leaseholders who have previously received funding and are economic actors and any commercial leaseholders.

DLUHC will consider the requested costs review any information submitted regarding the subsidy control rules.

The application is then sent to a funding board for approval.

A stage two application for full works and costs will take at least 4 weeks to complete.

Building owners should inform leaseholders about the result of the second stage of the funding application.



5. Funding agreement

If the building is approved for funding, the applicant will be notified in writing.

The building owner will be asked to sign a grant funding agreement.

The grant funding agreement will require the building owner to confirm that the information submitted about the building is correct.

Once the agreement is signed and completed and all the conditions precedent to the agreement are met (including a start on site date and a signed works contract), a payment can be made. This will be a percentage of the total grant awarded, depending on the payment profile chosen and your building's particular circumstances.

Applicants should tell leaseholders if their building has been approved for funding.

6. Start of remediation works

At this stage, work begins to make the building safe, such as removing and replacing cladding. Applicants should tell leaseholders the start date for remediation works.

The building owner must supply project management information to DLUHC at least every month. This information is used to monitor progress and costs.

7. Completion of remediation works

When the remediation works are completed, the building owner needs to supply evidence to DLUHC that a building control professional has certified the building is compliant with the building regulations.

This evidence is checked before approval is given for the final payment.

Building owners should notify leaseholders when the remediation of their building is complete.