



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local
Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Jeremy Pocklington, CB
Permanent Secretary

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450
Email: robert.jenrick@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

26 May 2020

Dear Jeremy

Thank you for your letter of today. I have carefully considered the issues you have raised about my proposal to provide an additional £1bn to fund the remediation of buildings over 18m which have unsafe non-ACM cladding systems. In particular, I have considered the implications for the Department in demonstrating compliance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

I am glad that you share my view that the pace of remediation, despite advice issued by this Department since 2017, remains unacceptable, particularly in the private sector. We are pushing ahead with our reforms to strengthen regulation, but we must do more now. To not do so will leave residents facing unacceptable risks and costs. The Prime Minister and I are clear that this cannot continue and that where possible leaseholders should not be facing life changing costs.

I am persuaded that, having considered several alternatives, the only effective way to achieve this increase at the current time is to remove the financial barriers to remediation. In practice, I am clear that removing the constraint created by the need to pass on costs to leaseholders will be the most effective way to increase pace. I expect building owners to have done everything they can to pursue other funding options before calling on the taxpayer or their leaseholders to meet the cost of work.

This intervention will address the most significant safety concerns we have in advance of the new regulatory regime coming into force.

I understand that, in making these choices, the taxpayer will pick up a significant proportion of remedial costs. However, I have considered that against the safety implications for residents and the need for pace, and the benefits that will derive from these. I consider those factors to be more important, indeed I consider them to be imperative.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP