



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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10 January 2022

Dear Jeremy,

£27m FUND FOR FIRE ALARMS IN BUILDINGS WITH A WAKING WATCH

Thank you for your letter of today and the ongoing work of our officials as we work to bring about generational reform of building safety in this country.

Waking Watch costs are a national scandal and there is an urgent need to tackle this problem given the detrimental impact it is having on leaseholders. Whilst some building owners have already installed fire alarms, some with the help of the Waking Watch Relief Fund announced last December, I am persuaded that this £27m fund is the quickest and most effective way to correct this scandal which persists.

I have carefully considered the issues you have raised about the proposal to provide £27m funding for the installation of a common alarm system in all buildings with a Waking Watch to reduce the costs borne by leaseholders. In particular, I have considered the implications for the Department in demonstrating compliance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money. It is my judgement that this course of action is clearly in the best interests of the people living in buildings with a Waking Watch.

You should therefore take this note as a formal direction to proceed.

With every good wish,

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations