



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

## Building Safety Remediation Monthly Data Release England: December 2023

Technical Notes

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January 2023

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# Data collection

DLUHC uses data from several sources in the Data Release:

1. **Building Research Establishment tests;**
2. **Local authority confirmation** – following local authorities providing updates on their own building stock in the social sector and working with building owners and agents to identify any cladding issues, and providing updates on enforcement action;
3. **Housing association confirmation** – following housing associations providing updates on their own building stock in the social sector and where they act as head lessors in the private sector;
4. **Discussions with responsible stakeholders** – including building owners, developers, agents and the Local Government Association;
5. **Valuation Office Agency property attribute data** – to validate the number of dwellings in high-rise residential buildings;
6. **Greater London Authority and Homes England** (the delivery partners for the ACM Social Sector Remediation Fund, the ACM Private Sector Remediation Fund and the Building Safety Fund Private Sector Applications) – for information relating to the Social and Private Sector remediation funds;
7. **Homes England** (as delivery partner for the Cladding Safety Fund) - for information relating to the CSS;
8. **Developer data reports** – for information on buildings covered by the developer remediation contract, including buildings with life-critical fire-safety defects; and
9. **Fire Safety Remediation Survey** – for information on social buildings where the landlord; both private registered providers (PRPs) and local authority registered providers (LARPs), is the responsible entity. The Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) led an aggregate level survey, whilst DLUHC led an individual building level survey on social housing remediation.

Since **summer 2017** DLUHC have been funding the testing of cladding from high-rise residential buildings at the BRE. This establishes the category of ACM cladding, which, along with insulation type, determine compliance with Building Regulations. The BRE test data for private sector, social sector residential and publicly owned buildings were published in data releases between **December 2017** and **December 2020**.

The data [table](#) on samples received by BRE for testing – which was a count of materials submitted to BRE for testing and was previously published each month – was discontinued in October 2019. The data [table](#) of descriptions of large-scale system tests undertaken by the BRE and the number of buildings with similar cladding systems was discontinued in November 2020.

Since **autumn 2017**, local authorities have been working with private sector building owners to ascertain combinations of ACM cladding and insulation on high-rise private

sector buildings which have not been tested by BRE. Local authorities have used information from sources such as local fire and rescue services, building plans, ACM tests undertaken elsewhere, knowledge of similar buildings where BRE tests have confirmed ACM cladding, and/or building inspections.

DLUHC and local authorities have adopted many approaches to identify the cladding and insulation status of the remaining private sector buildings. This has included the payment of an allowance to local authorities for identifying buildings or starting an enforcement process<sup>1</sup> against building owners, with a cut-off date at **end May 2018**. The Data Release of **28 June 2018** was the first that included data confirmed by local authorities.

DLUHC are confident that the vast majority of social and private sector high-rise residential and publicly owned buildings with ACM cladding systems unlikely to meet Building Regulations have been identified.

Since **spring 2018** DLUHC have been talking with building owners, developers and agents to ascertain updates on remediation. As of **11 February 2019**, the questionnaire used to collect information on high-rise residential buildings in England with ACM cladding systems was updated to provide increased precision in response options concerning the status of remediation. This might result in marginal changes in the data as further updates are collected. Additional questions were added which do not impact the data in this release.

Since **early 2019** DLUHC have collected data on dwellings from the VOA Property Details data website. We have used this data to provide greater coverage of the number of dwellings in buildings with ACM cladding systems, as well as validating responses from responsible stakeholders.

Since **summer 2019** DLUHC has been collecting data on all external wall systems on residential buildings 18 metres and above in height and will publish appropriate information from the data collection when ready. On 21 November 2020, DLUHC published information on estimates of [EWS1 requirements on residential buildings in England](#), including indicative analysis on the cladding coverage of residential buildings and the number of leasehold dwellings in those buildings. This analysis was updated on 8 March 2021 due to a further publication of guidance notes by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. On 10 January 2022, DLUHC published data for the first time on the number of EWS1 forms (or equivalent) that have been required on mortgage valuations for flats. This data has been published as reported by 7 major lenders in the United Kingdom. For more information please see [EWS1 \(or equivalent\) lender data on mortgage valuations for flats: April to September 2021, United Kingdom](#). The data release will be updated on a quarterly basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Local authority enforcement powers under the 2004 Housing Act include Section 235 powers to demand documents from building owners, and Section 239 powers to take a sample of a building for testing.

Since the **October 2019** Data Release DLUHC has reported on buildings known to be vacant. Buildings are vacated for a variety of reasons. This can be because they are being prepared for demolition or that a Fire and Rescue Service or local authority has issued a prohibition order, preventing residents from using the building. A vacated building that has had its cladding removed and with no further works to take place prior to demolition is considered to have been remediated.

It is known that some buildings have had their ACM cladding removed even though remediation is not yet complete. From **March 2020**, we have incorporated further information regarding those buildings that have started remediation – where works have finished but are awaiting sign-off, and where cladding has been removed but where works have not finished.

From **April 2020** until **August 2020** we provided information on the impact of COVID-19 on remediation progress for those remediation projects which have already started remediation.

From **May 2020** we have provided more analysis with a focus on remediation in local areas, for both local authorities and other aggregated areas. Local authority data excludes local authorities with fewer than 10 high-rise residential buildings, regardless of whether they have cladding, and groups local authority figures into bands. These disclosure control measures are in place to prevent the identification of one or more buildings with ACM cladding systems unlikely to meet Building Regulations in these areas. Since **May 2022**, local authorities have been updated to ONS Local Authority Districts December 2021 boundaries.

From **June 2020** we have provided more analysis of the characteristics of all high-rise residential multi-occupied buildings. The methodology of which is described in a section below.

From **September 2020** we have robust data on vacant buildings yet to start remediation and these buildings are shown in the charts.

From **October 2020** we have published data on remediation progress by tenure for Greater Manchester, London and the Rest of England as a Web Table.

From **December 2020** we have published data on annual remediation progress.

From **February 2021** we have published data for vacant buildings in all remediation categories and these buildings are shown in the charts and Web Table.

From **April 2021** we have provided more analysis on remediation progress for buildings identified by 31 December 2019 compared to all identified buildings.

From **June 2021** we have published quarterly data on Social and Private Sector ACM Cladding Remediation Fund expenditure.

From **October 2021** we have published data on the progress of the Waking Watch Relief Fund, previously published alongside the [Waking Watch Relief Fund guidance](#).

From **April 2022** we have published data on the progress of the Waking Watch Replacement Fund.

From **May 2023** we have published data on the progress of ACM, Waking Watch Relief Fund, Waking Watch Replacement Fund, BSF and Enforcement, in a series of management information tables, previously published separately.

From **August 2023** we have published data in the management information tables on Local Authorities attendance of training sessions held by the Joint Inspection Team hosted by the Local Government Association.

From **October 2023** we have published data on buildings in the Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS), developer remediation contract, and reported by registered providers of social housing. We have published data on these buildings, as well as ACM and BSF remediation progress all in one data release, with an overall view that accounts for crossover between the different schemes. Data on the number of residential multi-occupied buildings of 11 metres or more is no longer published monthly. Instead, users can find these statistics in the [September 2023 data release](#). An update will be published should the estimates change.

### **Methodology: Waking Watch Relief Fund data**

Waking Watch Relief Fund data is provided by applicants to the Waking Watch Relief Fund. There is missing data across a number of fields, for example Waking Watch costs, and averages are calculated on a subset of applications. Some data on Waking Watch costs has been excluded from analysis where outliers have been identified, such as figures that are substantially higher or lower than expected and are judged to be erroneous or on a different basis to that requested.

Average monthly Waking Watch costs per dwelling are based on data for 128 out of 150 approved applications from the first application window, 22 out of 27 approved applications from the second application window and 34 out of 35 approved applications for the third application window. The median waking watch cost per dwelling per month is based on building level data as dwelling level data is not available.

The estimated number of leasehold dwellings covered is based on data for 212 out of 212 approved applications.

### **Methodology: Waking Watch Replacement Fund data**

Waking Watch Replacement Fund data is provided by applicants to the Waking Watch Replacement Fund. There is missing data across a number of fields, for example Waking Watch costs, and averages are calculated on a subset of applications.

Average monthly Waking Watch costs per dwelling are based on data for 22 out of 25 approved applications. The median waking watch cost per dwelling per month is based on building level data as dwelling level data is not available.

The estimated number of leasehold dwellings covered is based on data for 25 out of 25 approved applications.

### **Methodology: Building Safety Fund data**

Building Safety Fund data was provided by responsible entities in June and July 2020 to DLUHC through a Survey Monkey Form, registering interest in applying for funding from the 2020 Building Safety Fund. There is missing data across a number of fields, for example number of units, and averages are calculated to determine an estimate number of homes and properties.

These registrations are assessed by DLUHC for eligibility for funding and where eligible are passed to the relevant delivery partner (Homes England or Greater London Authority) to engage with responsible entities, data is collected on remediation progress and reported back to DLUHC. All BSF remediation data is provided by responsible entities to the relevant delivery partner. Responsibility for the data lies with the data provided – as such only data provided by delivery partners is published.

### **Methodology: Enforcement**

DLUHC has collected data from local authorities on enforcement action taken against high-rise residential buildings with unsafe cladding in their areas through the work of the Joint Inspection Team, our ongoing engagement, and an online portal. The enforcement figures represent high-rise buildings with unsafe cladding both within and outside of the Private Sector Cladding Remediation Fund and Building Safety Fund. The data only reflects where formal action has been taken; it does not cover the range of informal interactions that local authorities have with those responsible for buildings to progress the



pace of remediation. As the data has been collected from local authorities on a voluntary basis, there may be further action that has been taken, of which the department is not yet aware.

### **Methodology: Joint Inspection Team Training**

The Joint Inspection Team (JIT) provide training to local authorities on their enforcement powers under the Housing Act 2004. This includes the use of the Housing Health and Safety Ratings System (HHSRS).

The training figures are provided by the LGA and show attendance by local authority of the training sessions the JIT offers: Level 1, Introduction to Fire Safety, Level 2 part 1: Intermediate Fire Safety: Theoretical HHSRS assessments, and Level 2 part 2: Intermediate Fire Safety: Practical HHSRS assessments.

### **Methodology: Aluminium Composite Material Programme**

Local authorities submit a data return on DELTA if they believe a new building is in scope of the ACM programme. DLUHC investigates the building's eligibility and confirms whether the building is in scope or out of scope. AtkinsRéalis (formerly known as Faithful and Gould) are made aware of new buildings in scope of the programme. They then continually engage with responsible entities to track buildings' remediation progress and report this to DLUHC. Local authorities will also update DELTA with remediation progress updates. Updates received from DELTA are verified with AtkinsRéalis where relevant. The monthly remediation progress updates are published.

Buildings in scope of government funding submit an application to the Private Sector Cladding Remediation Fund (PSCRF) or Social Sector Cladding Remediation Fund (SSCRF). Eligible applications are transferred to delivery partners (Homes England or Greater London Authority for PSCRF, or an internal DLUHC team for the SSCRf). Delivery partners provide updates on funding applications to DLUHC, which are published.

### **Methodology: Cladding Safety Scheme**

The Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS) was opened as a pilot in November 2022, prospective applicants invited to apply to the scheme, and was launched fully in July 2023. Homes England are the delivery partner for the CSS and are responsible for the pull-in process, contacting prospective applicants and encouraging them to apply, the application and eligibility determination process, as well as the delivery of the scheme for eligible buildings.

Data on the application and remediation progress in the CSS is provided in monthly reports, and in the form of monthly data cuts, taken from Homes England's management reporting

system. Given the early stages of the scheme, application progress updates are published, along with remediation progress updates.

### **Methodology: Developer Data Reports**

Developers who have signed the developer remediation contract are required to submit a data report to DLUHC within 30 Business Days of the date of the Contract. They are also required to submit updated data reports quarterly, by the tenth Business Day after each Reporting Date. The report requires developers to submit data on residential and mixed-use buildings of 11 metres and over in height that they developed or refurbished in England over the 30 years ending on 4 April 2022. This includes buildings with life-critical fire-safety defects.

The report includes questions on Fire Risk Appraisal of External Wall assessments (FRAEW) and Fire Safety assessments (FSA), whether a building requires works relating to a life-critical fire-safety defect, the type of defect, remediation progress and start and completion dates, amongst other questions on building level details

The data reports are processed, cleaned, and analysed by a team of analysts within DLUHC, who continually engage with a dedicated team of caseworkers to peer review each report and raise queries regarding data quality. As part of the data cleaning and quality assurance exercise, the reports are linked to other data held by DLUHC, for example data from the Building Safety Fund and Aluminium Composite Material Programme, to impute missing data in the developer's data report and to identify overlaps across the various government remediation programmes.

Data for developer level statistics are received quarterly, whilst BSF and ACM data are received monthly, with the most recent quarter being at 31 October 2023. This means the period of developer data being used will not always reflect the same period of data being used for other remediation programmes in the Building Safety Release.

DLUHC produce two sets of statistics from the developer reports which are based on different methodologies:

#### Methodology 1: Developer by developer breakdowns

For estimates published in the management information table *'Developer by developer breakdown of buildings covered by the developer remediation contract'*, all figures are based on the raw data submitted by developers in their report, and a building which has (or has had) life-critical fire-safety defects is identified as a building where the developer has responded 'Yes' to the question *'Does this building require works'* The statistics on buildings starting in the next 12 months are based upon start dates between 1 November 2023 and 31 October 2024 as the latest developer data is from 31 October 2023.

## Methodology 2: Programme and overall view

Programme and overall estimates are based on a combination of raw and imputed data submitted by developers in their report, as well as imputed data based on other data held by the department, for example data from the Building Safety Fund and Aluminium Composite Material Programme. A building which has (or has had) life-critical fire-safety defects is identified if one or more of the following is true: The developer has responded 'Yes' to the question '*Does this building require works?*'; the developer has listed the '*Status of Works*' as Planned, Started or Complete, or the building is assessed as eligible and funding has been paid out from the Building Safety Fund or ACM Cladding Remediation Fund.

### **Methodology: Social housing**

Landlords, including private registered providers (PRPs) and local authority registered providers (LARPs) were asked to complete the Fire Remediation Survey and to report whether they are responsible for any residential buildings measuring 11 metres plus or that have 5 or 6 storeys or more, including buildings with life-critical fire-safety defects. The survey required landlords to provide aggregate level information to RSH who led the production of social housing statistics and published separately to the Building Safety Release. In addition to the aggregate survey, landlords were asked to submit fire safety remediation data at an individual building level, which DLUHC have analysed and reported in the Building Safety Release. DLUHC and RSH engage closely to ensure these releases are consistent.

In the Building Safety Release, statistics on overall remediation e.g., Figures 1 and 2, are based on the individual building level survey and account for overlaps with other government remediation programmes (BSF, ACM, CSS and the Developer Remediation Contract). The Social Housing Sector statistics reported in the Building Safety Release e.g., Figures 17 and 18, are based on the aggregate survey results and do not account for overlaps with other government programmes.

### **Methodology: Overall remediation**

The overall remediation section of the data release includes buildings with cladding defects only. Buildings can be in multiple schemes and social sector buildings in schemes will also be reported in the Fire Remediation Survey. Therefore, to produce the overall remediation figures for all buildings DLUHC are monitoring, building numbers in each section of the data release cannot be summed. Datasets are matched and buildings appearing in multiple

datasets are recorded. The building level social sector Fire Remediation Survey is used and the imputed developer dataset of buildings with cladding defects.

A dataset of buildings and their remediation status is compiled in the following order:

- High-rise (18m+) buildings in the ACM programme (including student accommodation, hotels and public buildings), including those which appear in other data collections
- High-rise (18m+) residential buildings eligible for the BSF, excluding those which are also in the ACM programme
- 11m+ residential buildings eligible for the CSS
- 11m+ residential buildings in the developer remediation contract with unsafe cladding (from the imputed dataset), excluding those which are also eligible for the BSF or which are in the ACM programme
- 11m+ social sector buildings with unsafe cladding reported in the building level Fire Remediation Survey, excluding those which are in the ACM programme, are eligible for the BSF or CSS, or fall under the developer remediation contract

#### Building level remediation statuses

Where buildings are in multiple data collections or schemes, remediation statuses are assigned from a data collection using the rules above.

For buildings in developer remediation contracts or reported in the social sector Fire Remediation Surveys, which are also in the CSS, ACM programme and or BSF, the CSS, ACM or BSF remediation status is used, rather than the developer or registered provider reported remediation status.

For buildings in the ACM programme and BSF, a combined remediation status is calculated. 'Remediation not Started' is assigned for buildings that have not started works on either type of cladding. 'Remediation Started' is assigned for buildings where work has started on remediating at least one type of cladding. 'Remediation complete' is assigned for buildings that have completed on works for the remediation of both types of cladding.

#### Estimated dwelling figures

For each building in the overall dataset, the number of dwellings is collated from the dataset the building details are pulled from, following the ordering above. Where the number of dwellings in a building is not known, an average is applied, using the average from the relevant remediation scheme or data collection.

# Data quality

## Assessment of data quality

In 2015, the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) published a [regulatory standard for the quality assurance of administrative data](#). To assess the quality of the data provided for this release, the department has followed that standard.

The data used in this release is classified as Medium risk in terms of data collection process, with a High public profile. The publication of the Building Safety Programme data release can be considered high profile, as there is significant mainstream media interest following the Grenfell Tower fire. These statistics form the headline figures for the remediation of unsafe buildings in England and as such are critical to policy making. They are also frequently quoted in national and local media.

The data quality is considered a medium concern given that a large number of local authorities and housing associations are involved in the data collection process, with some local authorities, the Greater London Authority and Homes England acting as intermediaries in the data collection process.

The medium rating does not reflect the suitability of the data and quality of this data for the Building Safety Programme's purposes, but rather that the quality assurance processes undertaken are more stringent compared to low-risk data. It should be taken into account that the data is collected from multiple sources.

The data collection involves more than 100 organisations, including local authorities and housing associations. The department does not have full oversight of their systems and quality procedures; we provide clear guidance and documentation to them via DELTA data collection system.

## Risk Profile Matrix

<b>Statistical Series</b>	<b>Administrative Source</b>	<b>Data Quality Concern</b>	<b>Public Interest</b>	<b>Matrix Classification</b>
Building Safety Programme data release	Local authorities' and housing associations' individual data systems	Medium	High	Medium Risk [A2]

## Operational context and administrative data collection

Figure 1 shows the statistical production process, quality assurance (QA) checks and engagement between housing associations, local authorities, responsible stakeholders, AtkinsRéalis, and DLUHC during the process.

Building-level data is reported to DLUHC by housing associations and local authorities via the DELTA data collection platform. The data is continually updated via DELTA submissions and engagement with housing associations and local authorities to reflect progress on the ground. The DELTA collection platform pre-populates forms so that housing associations and local authorities can update records without having to submit complete entries each time.

Since March 2020, buildings in the ACM remediation programme have received expert construction advice from the firm AtkinsRéalis. Through AtkinsRéalis' engagement with responsible entities, data is collected on remediation progress and reported to DLUHC.

Waking Watch Relief Fund and Waking Watch Replacement Fund data is provided by applicants, with some local authorities administering the funds. DLUHC does not have full oversight of their systems and quality procedures. Guidance and documentation is available throughout the application process. Although some data cleaning took place to exclude duplicate applications and outliers for Waking Watch costs, the data provided was not subject to additional quality assurance. Data providers were not, for example, contacted for clarifications and corrections unless necessary for assessing the eligibility of the application.

In June and July 2020 responsible entities provided registration information to DLUHC through a Survey Monkey Form, registering interest in applying for funding through the Building Safety Fund. These buildings were assessed by DLUHC for eligibility for funding. If eligible these buildings were handed to the relevant delivery partner (Homes England or Greater London Authority) to engage with responsible entities, data is collected on remediation progress and reported to DLUHC.

In March 2022 enforcement data began to be collected by DLUHC from and local authorities via the DELTA data collection platform. The data is continually updated via

DELTA submissions and engagement with housing associations and local authorities to reflect progress on the ground.

Data on the application progress and remediation progress in the Cladding Safety Fund is provided by Homes England, the delivery partner, taken from their management reporting system. Homes England provide DLUHC with monthly data packs and data cuts as at the last working day of each month.

Developer statistics data are provided by developers who have signed the contract (some developers are not legally obligated to provide data, for example if they recently signed the contract and are within their deadline). DLUHC provides the developers with a form with guidance throughout and data validation fields to aid completion. Although some data cleaning was undertaken to exclude duplicate buildings, buildings agreed not in-scope with the developer and to ensure the data is in the correct format, the data provided was not subject to additional quality assurance. Developers were not, for example, contacted for clarifications and corrections unless necessary to confirm inclusion in the dataset.

Fire Remediation Survey returns were subject to an internal validation process through the use of RSHs NROSH+ system which helps to minimise data entry errors and the aggregate level results have been found to be broadly consistent with RSHs regulatory understanding of providers' progress on remediation. Data validations were also built into DLUHCs building level social housing survey and data cleansing and quality assurance checks were performed by a team of analysts. However, an 88% response rate to the survey including non-responses from 14 large LARPs means that the data does not provide a complete picture of fire safety remediation plans across all 11 metre plus buildings in the sector.

## **Communication with data supply partners**

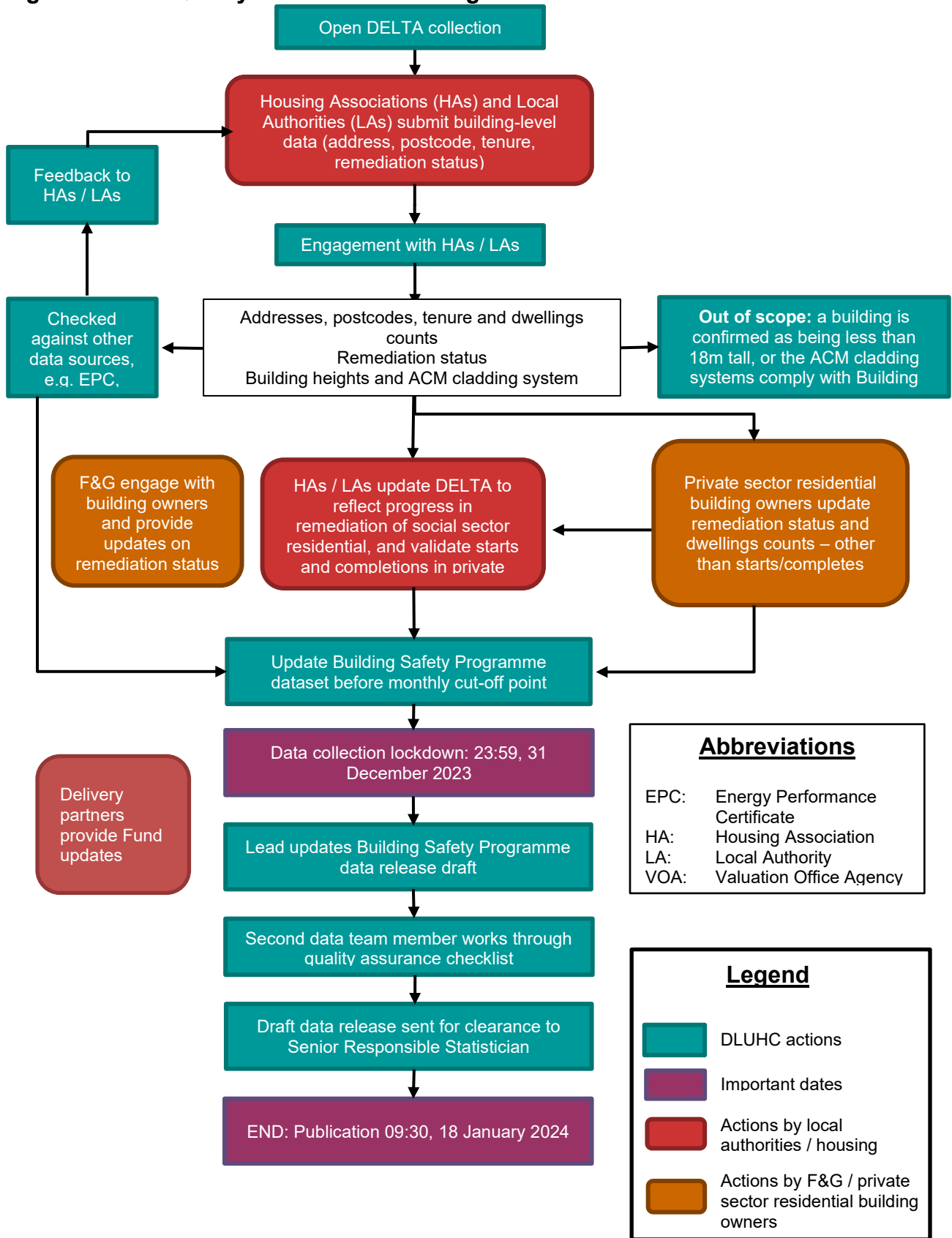
DLUHC asks for updates to building-level data, especially remediation status, throughout each month and requests that housing associations and local authorities submit important updates before the data cut-off point (the last day of each month). Building owners, managers and agents report the remediation status of a building periodically. AtkinsRéalis provide regular updates on remediation progress, with all changes throughout the month reported to DLUHC at the end of the month. Delivery partners for the Social Sector ACM Remediation Fund, the Private Sector ACM Remediation Fund, BSF Remediation Fund and Cladding Safety Scheme also provide updates to DLUHC, with weekly updates..

There is a risk that some housing associations and local authorities have provided postcodes that are no longer in use. If there are any differences between the data supplier's responses and other data sources, DLUHC reconciles any differences and improves the data quality.

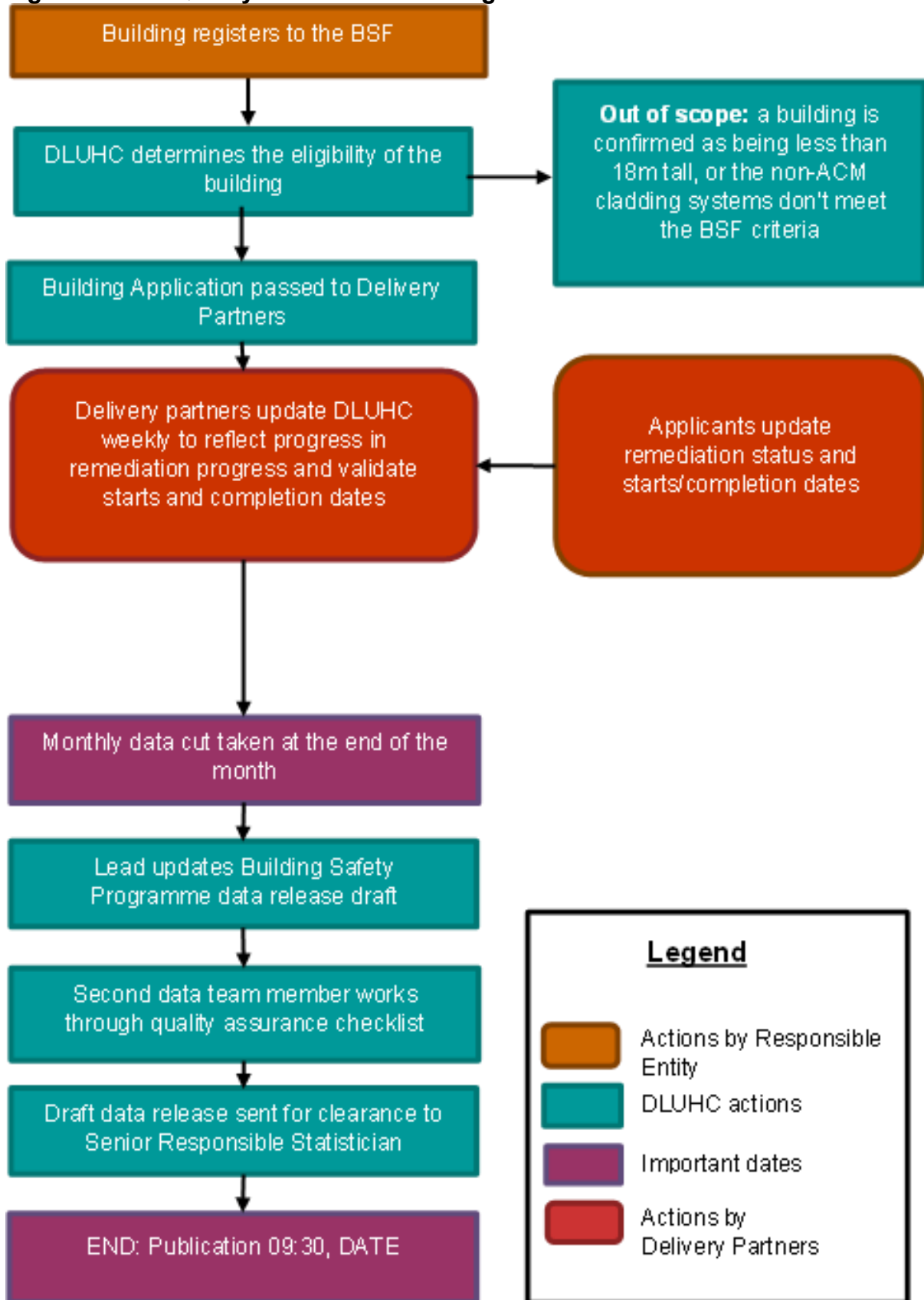




**Figure 1: ACM Quality assurance flow diagram**



**Figure 2: BSF Quality assurance flow diagram**



**QA principles, standards and checks by data suppliers**

For ACM housing associations and local authorities update DELTA to reflect progress in remediation and these updates are included in the dataset. Starts and completions for private sector residential buildings are confirmed by local authorities before it is updated in the dataset, and subsequently, the data release.

Completions in the ACM programmes are confirmed with a sign-off certificate from the relevant Building Control body, where necessary. Local authorities also confirm if a building is under 18 metres or the ACM cladding systems comply with Building Regulations, either of which would result in a building falling out of scope of this data collection and reporting.

For BSF Homes England, Greater London Authority and DLUHC Social Sector team provide updates to DLUHC to reflect progress in remediation and these updates are included in the dataset. For the CSS, Homes England provide similar updates. Starts and completions are confirmed by applicants via Delivery Partner Caseworkers before it is updated in the dataset, and subsequently, the data release. Completions are confirmed with a sign-off certificate from the relevant Building Control body, where necessary.

### **Produces' QA investigation and documentation**

When reviewing the dataset using updates from engagement or the DELTA collection system, a conflict checker is used to ensure there are no inconsistencies with previous data releases. DLUHC quality assures the building-level data (i.e. addresses/postcodes, tenure, dwellings, and remediation status) using other data sources such as the Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) database and Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data.

DLUHC have collected data on the number of dwellings from responsible stakeholders and where a response was not given, the Valuation Office Agency data is used. The VOA data is also used to validate the responses from responsible stakeholders with respect to the number of dwellings, as well as addresses and postcodes. In this Data Release there are two yet to be remediated private sector buildings for which we do not have an estimate of dwellings.

For some buildings there is a mismatch between the responses DLUHC received and the VOA data. Where we have data from both sources, the degree of match for private sector buildings is 42% (with 75 exact matches among the 179 buildings with data from both sources) and it is 76% for social sector buildings (111 of the 147 buildings). This results in a range of estimates for the numbers of dwellings in these sectors for both remediated and yet to be remediated buildings. Where the range is up to and including 300 dwellings, it is reported as a combined number. Otherwise, as in the case of private sector buildings – both remediated and yet to be remediated – we report the range. Where we do not yet have an estimate of dwellings, these are not included in calculating the range. For both sectors, where buildings are known to have vacated their residents, the dwellings

estimates include the dwellings in these buildings unless stated otherwise. The rounded mid-point of the range is used for an approximate estimate of leasehold dwellings that will receive support through the ACM funds.

The VOA data was determined to be a suitable source to validate the number of dwellings based on quality assessment by the VOA and [ONS](#) as part of work on the 2021 Census. Every residential dwelling that is liable for Council tax has a record with the VOA, so the data has good coverage and accuracy. However, there is a slight degree of incompleteness. Property attribute data are only updated when it is brought to the attention of the VOA that a record may be inaccurate. Reliance is placed upon local authorities to flag any changes to the VOA (such as new builds, demolitions, or alterations). As a result, there are some records in the list that are not updated as regularly as others, and the time lag associated with these updates is unclear.

Once the data collection is locked down, two members of the Building Safety Programme data team begin working on updating the monthly data release. One takes the role as the lead producer and the other takes the role of quality assuring the data.

The lead statistician updates the data release, the second data team member then goes through the draft, quality assures the data and the accompanying published data tables. Simultaneously, a Building Safety Programme team member external to the data team reviews and quality assures the release.

A quality assurance checklist, which evolves over time, is used by the second data team member to work through the draft once it is complete. The quality assurance checklist includes:

1. ensuring totals in the tables and figures align with the disaggregated data,
2. ensuring published figures across the data release are consistent,
3. checking for inconsistencies compared to any previous data releases,
4. ensuring the data release map is accurate,
5. performing checks related to disclosure so that any ACM clad buildings are not identified in areas with fewer than ten high-rise buildings, and
6. making sure all changes in the data are plausible.

Once the data team are content that the items on the checklist have been scrutinised and ticked off, the provisional Data Release is sent to senior staff for approval. Once approved by senior staff, the Data Release is prepared for publication.

# Definitions

**Building control:** A statutory process of assessing plans for building work and building work on site to decide whether the plans and work comply with the requirements in Building Regulations.

**Building Inspections:** an inspection performed under the Housing Act 2004's Housing Health and Safety Rating System by a building inspector usually an environmental health officer of a local authority or by the fire rescue service.

**Building Safety Fund (BSF) 2020:** The fund for remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding systems on residential buildings 18 metres and over in both the private and social housing sectors that opened was open in June and July 2020.

**BS8414:** BS8414 is a British standard test method that measures the fire performance of external cladding systems.

**Care Quality Commission (CQC):** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care. It regulates all health and social care services in England.

**Category 1 rating:** where a risk is deemed to be category 1, a local authority has a duty to take enforcement action.

**Category 2 rating:** where a risk is deemed to be category 2, an authority has the power to take action.

**Cladding Safety Scheme:** The fund for remediation of medium-rise (11 – 18 metres in height) residential buildings with cladding defects in England and high-rise residential buildings outside of London with non-ACM cladding systems, that was fully launched in July 2023. Delivered by Homes England.

**Crown building:** a building in which there is a Crown interest or a Duchy interest

**Dwelling:** A self-contained unit of accommodation which may comprise one or more household spaces (a household space is the accommodation used or available for use by an individual household). This definition of a dwelling is consistent with the Census 2011.

**Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) data:** The [EPC database](#) is open data that records the energy performance of dwellings as well as other dwelling-level variables such as floor level, tenure, and street address/postcode.

**Enforcement Action:** is where an inspection under the Housing Act 2004's Housing Health and Safety Rating System has been organised/undertaken and includes where a statutory notice has also then been served.

**Fire Risk Assessment of External Walls (FRAEW):** An assessment to determine the scope of works required for external works.

**Fire Safety Assessment (FSA):** within the developer remediation contract this means an assessment of fire-safety risks carried out in accordance with the Standard, the Type, scope and objectives of which are such as to enable the identification of all actual and suspected Defects, which may include a fire risk assessment carried out in accordance with the Fire Safety Order (as amended, updated or supplemented from time to time) that meets the foregoing requirements.

**Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO):** A building, or part of a building, consisting of one or more units of living accommodation that is not a self-contained flat or flats. The living accommodation must be occupied by more than one household who share one or more of the basic amenities (toilet, washing facilities and cooking facilities). This definition of HMO is consistent with the standard test. As defined by local authorities in the data provide by the Ordnance Survey ®.

**Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS):** is a risk-based assessment evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in residential premises. Each hazard has a weighting which will help determine whether the building is rated as having risks which are either category 1 or category 2.

**Joint Inspection Team (JIT):** was set up by the department, and is hosted by the Local Government Association, to provide expert advice to local authorities on enforcement on buildings with unsafe cladding.

**Life-critical fire-safety defect:** taken to mean defects, shrinkages, faults or other failings (on their own or in conjunction with other defects, shrinkages, faults or failings) in a building, which give rise to fire safety risks which are assessed as not “medium - tolerable” (or better) by a FRAEW undertaken in accordance with PAS 9980 (in relation to external wall construction or cladding) or assessed as high risk or medium risk by an equivalent FRA according to industry standards covering other parts of the building.

**Litigation action:** Legal proceedings to recover costs from those responsible for installing the unsafe cladding.

**Ordnance Survey ® (OS ®):** Ordnance Survey ® (OS ®) is Great Britain's national

mapping agency. It carries out the official surveying of Great Britain, providing accurate and up-to-date geographic data.

**Private sector residential building:** A building is classified as a private sector residential building if the freeholder is a private company and contains at least one dwelling occupied as private residential accommodation. Private sector residential buildings exclude hotels and student accommodation.

**Publicly owned buildings:** A publicly owned building is one that is owned by a public authority, a government department or an arms-length body.

**RelHMax:** RelHMax is a measurement from the base of a building to the top of the tallest roof structure (e.g. a chimney stack).

**RelH2:** RelH2 is a measurement from the base of a building to the tallest eave height.

**Residential Education:** A building is classified as a residential education if the tenancy specifically states that it must be let exclusively for the purposes of boarding school accommodation and halls of residence, as defined by local authorities in the data provide by the Ordnance Survey ®.

**Sheltered accommodation:** Buildings are classified as sheltered accommodation if made available exclusively to the elderly, disabled and vulnerable people, as defined by local authorities in the data provide by the Ordnance Survey ®.

**Social sector residential building:** A building is classified as a social sector residential building if the freeholder is a registered social landlord and there is at least one social tenant living in the building.

**Statutory Notices:** a formal notice served by an authority under the Housing Act (2004) in response to a category 1 or category 2 hazard.

**Student accommodation:** Buildings are classified as student accommodation if the tenancy specifically states that it must be let exclusively to students.

**Topographic Identifier (TOID):** A topographic identifier is a unique and persistent identifier used to uniquely identify real world objects by the Ordnance Survey ®.

**Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data:** The [Valuation Office Agency](#) (VOA) is responsible for banding properties for Council Tax and it is a statutory requirement of the VOA to maintain accurate valuation lists for Council Tax. The [VOA's Property Details dataset](#) contains information on the main features and attributes of a property including the address/postcode and number of dwellings.

**Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN):** The UPRN is a unique identifier available for each address recorded within the AddressBase ® data.

## Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Revisions Policy and can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>

It covers two types of revisions that the policy covers, as follow:

### Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

### Scheduled Revisions

Where new information becomes available post publication, this is incorporated into the next scheduled Data Release, data tables and any other accompanying documents.

## Other information

### Uses of the data

The data in this release is used to help the Building Safety Programme make buildings safe and to make people feel safe from the risk of fire, now and in the future. Ministers and officials in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities use this information to understand progress with the remediation of buildings with ACM cladding systems unlikely to meet Building Regulations and to consider possible policy responses.



## User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to

[BuildingSafetyData2@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:BuildingSafetyData2@levellingup.gov.uk)

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

# Voluntary compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

[The Code of Practice for Statistics](#) was published in February 2018 to set standards for organisations in producing and publishing official statistics and ensure that statistics serve the public good.

Whilst the statistics in DLUHC’s Building Safety Programme Data Release have been designated as management information rather than ‘official statistics’, the principles of transparency of high-quality analytical outputs to inform decision making and the public underpin this data release. In October 2020, the Building Safety Programme Data Release was awarded the Office for Statistics Regulation’s (OSR) [first Voluntary Application of the Code Award](#).

<p><b>Trustworthiness:</b> trusted people, processes and analysis</p>	<p><b>Honesty and integrity (T1):</b> The Building Safety Programme Data Release is managed by professional analysts in DLUHC – this involves design of data collection tools, checking of provided data, and analysis. Waking Watch Relief Fund analysis is overseen and quality assured by professionally qualified analysts. Building Safety Fund analysis is overseen and quality assured by professionally qualified analysts. All other work is undertaken by professionally qualified and experienced data analysts - professional members of the Government Statistical Service, Government Operational Research Service or Government Social Research profession, where all staff have Personal Development Plans focussed on their long-term professional development (<b>Professional capability – T5</b>).</p> <p><b>Independent decision making and leadership (T2):</b> The work is governed by the Analysis and Data Directorate in DLUHC, accountable to DLUHC’s Chief Analyst and the Head of Profession for Statistics.</p> <p><b>Orderly release (T3):</b> DLUHC pre-announces the publication date for this data release. As part of our continuous improvement, the data cut-off date for data releases aligns to the end of the calendar month or for BSF the last appropriate Thursday.</p> <p><b>Transparent processes and management (T4):</b> DLUHC has robust, transparent, data-management processes.</p> <p>All ACM remediation data are provided by local authorities, housing associations, building owners / developers / managing agents, the DHSC, DfE and the BRE. Responsibility for the data lies with the data provider - as such only data either provided by BRE following testing or data verified by local authorities, housing associations, the DHSC or DfE are published.</p> <p>All BSF remediation data are provided by building owners/developers/managing agents along with delivery partners (GLA, HE and Social Sector). Responsibility for the data lies with the data provider – as such only data provided by delivery partners is published.</p> <p><b>Data Governance (T6):</b> DLUHC uses robust data collection and release processes to ensure data confidentiality. For data on ACM remediation <a href="#">a published privacy notice</a> clearly sets out why data are collected, data sharing, and the legal basis for processing data. For Waking Watch Relief Fund data the <a href="#">DLUHC personal information charter and privacy notice</a> clearly sets out to WWRF applicants how and why DLUHC use personal information and their rights and responsibilities. This is consistent with the General Data Protection Regulation.</p> <p>For data on BSF remediation <a href="#">a published privacy notice</a> clearly sets out why data are collected, data sharing and the legal basis for processing data.</p>
<p><b>High quality:</b></p>	<p><b>Suitable data sources (Q1):</b> Data originates from a number of sources outside the</p>

<p>robust data, methods and processes</p>	<p>control of DLUHC: local authorities, local Fire and Rescue Services, housing associations, building owners / developers / managing agents, DHSC, DfE, and BRE. Data are triangulated, where possible, and data are always verified by these bodies – who are ultimately responsible for the quality of their data. Where the quality of data is unclear, it is either not published or quality issues are highlighted.</p> <p>All data collections which have contributed to the analysis of buildings between 11 metres and 18 metres and buildings at least seven storeys but under 18 metres tall have been provided by the Ordnance Survey ® (OS ®) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPC). Responsibility for the data lies with the data provider.</p> <p><b>Sound methods (Q2):</b> Data collection tools and processes are robustly designed and tested prior to use, learning lessons from previous Building Safety Programme data collections and best practice from across the government analytical community.</p> <p><b>Assured Quality (Q3):</b> All data are quality-assured prior to publication.</p> <p>As the quality of data improves, it is our intention to publish further data on the safety of high-rise and complex buildings. Information to date on data improvements and new content added to the data release is outlined in the Data Collection section of the Technical Note.</p> <p>For transparency, we published the Building Safety data tables for the first time in the November 2018 data release.</p> <p>A revisions policy is in place to ensure that any revisions are addressed quickly and systematically.</p>
<p><b>Public value:</b> supporting society’s need for information and accessible to all</p>	<p><b>Relevance to users (V1):</b> The nature of building safety means this data release is of high value to the public, to residents of high-rise buildings and building owners/developers. However, the data release balances disclosure control (risks of disclosing individual buildings) with informing the public and keeping people safe.</p> <p>Periodically, new data are added to the data release once we are content with the quality. Data are also removed if they do not add to understanding of building safety or are superseded by other data in the data release. Where a proposal is made to remove data, this is flagged in the data release with a period of one month given for users to express an interest. User views are then taken into account before final decisions are taken on removing data.</p> <p><b>Accessibility (V2):</b> Given the immediate nature of building-safety issues, and the need to develop interim solutions and longer-term remediation, data are shared with Fire and Rescue Services and Local Authorities once DLUHC are aware of issues.</p> <p>Officials and Ministers also use the data prior to publication to monitor progress and develop timely interventions. This enables immediate action to be taken. Therefore, the data may be used for operational purposes before publication in this data release.</p> <p>To assist with public accessibility the data tables underpinning this data release are published as HTML, as well as being available as .csv files. Since the November 2020 release, the data release and Technical Note have been published using an improved accessible template.</p> <p><b>Clarity and Insight (V3):</b> Complex data are clearly explained in the data release and accompanying Technical Note. Where insight and interpretation are offered, these have been verified with local authorities, BRE and other knowledgeable bodies.</p> <p><b>Innovation and improvement (V4):</b> This data release series started in December 2017. As the quality of data improves, it is our intention to publish further data on the safety of high-rise and complex buildings. Information to date on data improvements and new content added to the data release is outlined in the Data Collection section of the Technical Note.</p> <p><b>Efficiency and proportionality (V5):</b> Burdens on data providers have been considered, and DLUHC has worked to minimise the burden. Given the nature of building safety, DLUHC feels the current burden on data providers is appropriate.</p> <p>Given issues of public safety, only aggregate level data are published. Hence, further analysis of primary data is not possible.</p>

