



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Building Safety Newsletter

January 2026 Edition



Welcome to the first edition of our Building Safety Newsletter. We aim to bring you regular news from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the work we are doing to make buildings safer and improve the building safety system. In this edition you will find:

- [a foreword from the Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy](#)
- [legislation and policy developments](#)
- [news for residents](#)
- [regulation information](#)
- [other news in brief](#)

If you would like to receive this quarterly newsletter direct to your inbox, please [visit our sign-up page](#).

**Foreword from the Minister for Building Safety,
Fire and Democracy**



In my first few months as Building Safety Minister, I have been struck by the passion, commitment and urgency to improve our building safety systems from every stakeholder I have met.

Building safety remains a fundamental priority for this Government and creating lasting changes, that ensure everyone feels safe in their home, will very much be my focus for 2026.

This newsletter is about keeping you informed of ongoing progress, highlighting our current consultations and seeking your broader views as we work together to make buildings safer for everyone.

Collaboration and consultation are key. By working with residents, the construction sector, local authorities, and fire and rescue services, we continue to make more buildings safe and improve standards and transparency.

Resident views will continue to inform our thinking as we move forward. We are committed to providing clear information and to ensuring residents feel that their concerns are heard and acted upon. This is why we have just published a plain English guide to the Code of Practice for the Remediation of Residential Buildings.

I hope you find this newsletter useful. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

[Samantha Dixon MBE MP](#)

Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Latest progress report on recommendations published

Since February 2025, we have been publishing quarterly progress reports on the delivery of all Grenfell Inquiry recommendations. So far, we have published three [quarterly progress reports](#).

These reports cover key steps such as:

- appointing an [Interim Chief Construction Adviser](#)
- updating our [Remediation Acceleration Plan](#)
- setting out [plans for the next decade of social and affordable housing](#)
- introducing [reforms to strengthen the Building Safety Regulator](#)

December's report includes:

- a prospectus and consultation on creating a Single Construction Regulator – see our article below
- the [Fire Engineers Authoritative Statement](#) and [next steps](#)
- initial findings from the [Building Safety Regulator's review of what counts as a higher-risk building](#) and plans for ongoing review

We publish our next update in February 2026. This will be our first annual report to Parliament and will include a written and verbal statement. Unlike the quarterly updates, this report will give you the bigger picture on our progress and plans.

Reforming regulation and developing a single regulator

Government's consultative prospectus published

We recently published a consultative [Prospectus](#) setting out the Government's vision and proposals for reform and the creation of a single regulator for the construction sector.

It includes:

- integrating the regulation of buildings, construction products and professionals so they work as an effective, joined-up system. At

the heart of this system will be the single construction regulator.

- more focus on outcomes: safety, performance, trust and driving economic growth by enabling responsible businesses to thrive. These outcomes describe a well-functioning building system and will be used to set the regulator's objectives.
- clarifying roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for those who operate in the construction sector as we move to an integrated regulatory system and seek to drive culture change.
- protecting and supporting residents to rebuild trust in the regulatory system.
- a 'digital-first' approach to improve how regulation is connected and delivered, strengthening information-sharing and reducing duplication and fragmentation.

Our consultation runs until 20 March 2026. This is your opportunity to share your views on our proposals and help shape the future of building regulation.

Join one of our webinars to find out more. Register via the links below:

[Thursday 5th February 14:00 – 15:00](#)

[Tuesday 10th March 10:00 – 11:00](#)

Consultation on National Planning Policy Framework Includes proposals affecting the Building Safety Levy

Last month, MHCLG published a three-month [consultation on reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) which closes on 10 March 2026. This includes a proposal to reform site thresholds [from page 117] and questions on the [Building Safety Levy](#) [from page 119].

The Levy will apply to new residential buildings and purpose-built student accommodation in England and is paid by developers. It is expected to raise around £3.4 billion for building safety, likely over 10 years or more. It comes into force on 1 October 2026.

The consultation includes a proposal to extend the existing 'small development' Levy exemption to align with a new 'medium development' concept (defined as a development where 10-49 homes will be provided and the site has an area of up to 2.5 hectares).

We would welcome your views. If you have questions about the Levy, please email: BuildingSafetyLevy@communities.gov.uk. On wider planning matters, you can email: PlanningPolicyConsultation@communities.gov.uk.

News for Residents

New plain English guide for residents Code of Practice for the Remediation of Residential Buildings published

We believe that it is important that residents know what to expect when their homes are being remediated. Last month, we published a [plain English guide to the Code of Practice for the Remediation of Residential Buildings](#), making the [original Code](#) for the construction sector more accessible and easy to understand for residents.

Additional health and safety information is included in this guide, drawing on existing guidance from the [Health and Safety Executive](#). This will help residents understand their rights, what to expect and how to raise concerns if they believe something is unsafe.

Strengthening accountability and improving standards will ensure that residents are placed at the heart of building safety. If you represent residents, or participate in a resident group, we would be grateful if you could spread the word about our guide for residents.

Awaab's Law Join MHCLG's Disabled Residents' Forum Session

[Awaab's Law](#) came into force for social housing (housing provided by local authorities and housing associations) on 27 October 2025. It requires all social landlords to:

- fix emergency hazards within 24 hours, and
- investigate significant damp and mould hazards within 10 working days of being reported

We will introduce other rules, covering a wider range of hazards, in phases so we can test and learn what works best for tenants and landlords.

To make sure this law delivers real benefits, we want to hear from you. We are looking for feedback on:

- how well tenants understand the new law
- experiences of having hazards assessed under Awaab's Law
- any challenges or issues you have faced

Join our online session:

Date: Thursday 22 January 2026

Time: 11:00am

Where: Microsoft Teams

How to Join: Complete the [Participant Screener Survey](#) if you wish to take part and a member of the Resident Engagement Team will get in touch.

We especially want to hear from you if you are a disabled tenant who has had hazards assessed under Awaab's Law. We also welcome input from organisations and charities that support tenants. Your views will help shape Phases 2 and 3 of the law.

Stay Informed with LEASE

The [Leasehold Advisory Service \(LEASE\)](#) is a government-funded, independent body that provides free advice on residential leasehold and park home law in England and Wales. Its legally qualified advisers offer clear, impartial guidance to help people understand their rights and responsibilities. LEASE also runs events to help leaseholders and park home owners stay informed about important topics such as building safety and recent legislative changes. If you're looking for support right now, you can access LEASE's [building safety advice for leaseholders](#). Keep an eye on its website for updates.

For this first edition of our newsletter, we are taking a closer look at the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), the regulator for construction products.

OPSS's role in construction product safety

The [Office for Product Safety and Standards \(OPSS\)](#) is the UK regulator for most consumer products. Since 2021, it has been responsible for regulating construction products to help ensure compliance with legal requirements and performance standards, so enabling safer, better buildings across the UK.

Construction products are present in the homes, workplaces and buildings we use and live in every day. OPSS helps keep people safe by checking these products when they are supplied, investigating complaints and acting when products don't comply with regulations.

OPSS also publishes:

- [safety alerts, reports and product recalls](#)
- [updates on its enforcement actions](#)
- [industry research](#)

Enforcing the rules

- It carries out market checks and product testing.
- It removes non-compliant products from the UK market.
- It holds businesses accountable for meeting requirements of construction product designated standards

[Recent enforcement](#) has included action against non-compliant insulation and glass products. OPSS also runs testing programmes on items like cables, smoke control dampers and vapour barriers.

Supporting businesses

OPSS works with industry to make compliance easier, supporting clear industry-led guidance, such as:

- [Declaration of Performance Guide](#) on legal requirements for construction products
- [Fire Door Hardware Guide](#) on best practice for safety and compliance

Driving accountability

OPSS encourages a culture of responsibility across the construction sector. Many businesses now act proactively, withdrawing unsafe products and improving behaviours before formal enforcement is needed.

For more information, visit the [OPSS website](https://www.opss.gov.uk) or email: opss.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk.

Other News in Brief

Updates from the Building Safety Regulator

Over the coming month, the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) will take an important step forward as it becomes formally established as a new body. This milestone builds on recent operational improvements and strengthens the BSR's ability to deliver its vital role in ensuring building safety for the future. Keep an eye out for [updates in the BSR's bulletin and website](#).

Building safety remediation data publication

We publish data on [Building Safety Remediation](#) each month. These reports cover information on the progress of buildings - 11 metres high and over - in England that are undergoing remediation due to unsafe external wall systems. The reports also provide estimates of the number of buildings affected in England. The date of the next publication is 29 January 2026.

Unit costs publication – 2025 update

In December, we released our [first annual update to Cladding Remediation Unit Costs](#) (cost per m² of cladding remediated). This data helps those in the construction sector understand what represents value-for-money. Building on our 2024 publication, we have expanded our data to include [Cladding Safety Scheme](#) projects.

Rainscreen façade installer training – bookings now open!

The [Construction Industry Training Board \(CITB\)](#) has partnered with a leading industry training provider to launch a new rainscreen façade training programme. This training will upskill façade installers and site supervisors, provide recognised qualifications and raise industry standards, helping projects get underway faster. To book your place, click on the [training website](#).

Skilled Work Visa Options for Façade Installers

Façade installers and cladders are currently on the Immigration Salary List under occupation code 5314. This listing will stay in place until the end of 2026. Being on this list means that people applying for a [Skilled Worker visa](#) in these roles can qualify with a lower salary than usual - 80% of the standard minimum rate. There's also a proposal to add Façade Installers to the Temporary Shortage List. This would help increase the number of workers in the sector and support the occupation remaining on the Skilled Worker visa list beyond 2026.

Guidance to support remediation and the resident experience

We have published [guidance to accelerate developer-led remediation and improve resident experience](#), specifically: information to support building access for inspections, and guidance on responsibilities and dispute resolution. We would like to thank the Developer Remediation Action Group for their support and feedback.

We are changing our building safety pages on GOV.UK

Over the next few months, we will improve building safety information on GOV.UK, making sure it's easy to understand and find. We are looking for people who can provide us with feedback as we make these changes. We are particularly interested in speaking to individuals who use assistive technology to access information online, for example, screen readers or magnifiers. If you are interested in taking part, please email: SystemDesignTeam@communities.gov.uk.

Subscribe to the Scotland and Wales building safety newsletters

If you are interested in building safety in Scotland and Wales, you can subscribe to the [Scottish Government's newsletter](#) or the [Welsh Government's newsletter](#). Housing is a devolved policy area, allowing decisions to be made closer to the people affected.

Ministry of Housing, Communities
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