



Dame Diana Johnson MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

18 May 2022

Dear Chair,

I am very pleased to confirm that, on 18 May 2022, the Government launched a package of measures to drive forward reform of the fire and rescue service and improve fire safety.

These measures are informed by evidence from recent inspection reports and conclusions informed by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and other inquiries. Taken together these changes protect the public from fire and deliver the professional, modern, well-led services the public deserves.

Today we are launching the Fire Reform White Paper and Consultation. The reform agenda focuses on three key areas: people; professionalism; and governance. Improvements in these areas will help deliver higher standards and greater consistency across fire and rescue services.

The consultation will run for a period of 10 weeks, closing on 26 July 2022.

To improve fire safety we are:

- Commencing the Fire Safety Act 2021, which will require Responsible Persons to include consideration of the external walls, structure, common parts and flat entrance doors in their fire risk assessments.
- Launching an online tool to help Responsible Persons to prioritise the updating of their fire risk assessment.
- Bringing the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 into force on 23 January 2023. These regulations will implement the majority of recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report that require a change in law.

These measures will ensure that all blocks of flats are properly assessed for fire safety risks, with actions taken in ways that are cost-effective for individual leaseholders and proportionate to the very low risk from fire.

We are also publishing a consultation document that sets out how we can protect the vulnerable and support the evacuation of those who are mobility-impaired. Alongside this we are publishing the responses to our previous PEEPs consultation. We have taken account of the substantial difficulties of mandating PEEPs in high rise residential buildings and have developed new proposals that we are confident deliver proportionality, practicality and improve safety for those vulnerable people living in the highest risk buildings.

Alongside this, we are publishing the latest Grenfell delivery update setting out - in the most transparent way possible - progress against delivering the recommendations from the Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 report.

Further details on these announcements are available on the Gov.uk and Fire England websites.



**Lord Greenhalgh**  
**Minister of State for Building Safety and Fire**  
**Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and Home Office**