



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Clive Betts MP
Chair Housing, Communities and Local
Government Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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Lord Greenhalgh

Minister of State for Building Safety and Communities

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Dear Clive,

DRAFT BUILDING SAFETY BILL PRE-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

Thank you for your letter of 17 July and your offer of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee undertaking pre-legislative scrutiny the draft Building Safety Bill.

As we discussed at the APPG on Leasehold and Commonhold reform on 21 July, I very much appreciate the Committee's commitment to conducting the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Building Safety Bill. I am encouraged by your offer to start the process quickly.

These are important public safety matters that I want to have ready to introduce to Parliament as soon as possible in 2021, so I welcome the urgency you have conveyed and I hope to see the Committee publish its report in good time to enable that. I propose that we discuss a suitable date when the House returns in September.

The draft Bill addresses some complex and technical issues which I believe would benefit from scrutiny from experts from across both Houses. I would be grateful if you could consider whether there is a possibility of inviting Peers with expertise on these matters to participate in the scrutiny process. You might want to consider specifically asking my colleagues Lord Kennedy, Lord Best and Lord Porter to do so.

Your Clerk has already engaged my officials and they stand ready to support the Committee. They will arrange an informal session to brief the Committee on the draft Bill if you wish. We will provide written evidence ahead of oral evidence sessions, should this be helpful. My officials can also share further recommendations on whom you might want to call for evidence.

I would be grateful if you could consider these points and I look forward to working with you on this important piece of legislation.

I have copied this letter to the Leader of the House of Commons, the Chair of the Liaison Committee and the Chief Whip.

Yours ever,

LORD GREENHALGH