



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Lee Rowley MP

**Minister of State (Minister for Housing, Planning and Building
Safety)**

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF**

13 May 2024

Dear Lee,

Fire Safety: Construction products standards research – Further follow-up

I write regarding the commitment you have made to my Committee, on several occasions, that you will publish research your Department commissioned in 2020, that considered over 3,000 construction product standards associated with testing.¹ It is disappointing that you have not yet fulfilled your commitment and that I am now having to write to you again to seek clarification.

On 17 January 2024, in oral evidence to my Committee regarding our *Fire Safety* inquiry, you were asked whether you would publish the research report, you said that:

Yes. We are going to release that. There is no reason not to. I am not really sure why it has not gone out already. [...] I will release it in the coming weeks. I am keen for transparency. There is no reason why it is not out there, so we will get it out there as soon as we can.²

Furthermore, on 5 January 2024, I wrote you with further questions about our *Fire Safety* inquiry.³ In response, on 19 February 2024, you reaffirmed that:

[The research report] will be published in the coming weeks as I committed to do.

Transparency is intrinsic to our work on construction products reform and I recognise that it is therefore important that this research, referenced in the Independent Review, is published. I can confirm that the process for taking forward publication is well underway and this should be available within the coming weeks.⁴

¹ [The Independent Review of the Construction Product Testing Regime](#), p. 105-107

² Oral evidence: Fire Safety, HC 62 (Wednesday 17 January 2024), [Qq. 55-57](#) (Lee Rowley MP)

³ Letter from the Chair to the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, regarding Fire Safety oral evidence, [dated 5 January 2024](#)

⁴ Letter from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Building Safety to the Chair regarding Fire Safety oral evidence, [dated 19 February 2024](#)



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In the weeks since, my Committee staff have spoken informally with your officials, on numerous occasions, to engage them with the publication of the research report. However, a clear response has not been provided. It is now four months after your first committed to publish "in the coming weeks", but the report has not yet been published.

Please could you respond to this letter, no later than 24 May 2024, to confirm that you have published the research report? If you no longer plan to publish this research report, I would be grateful for confirmation of this and clear explanation as to why not.

Best wishes,

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee