



Public Accounts Committee

**Addressed to Dame Sarah Healey CB CVO
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
By email**

17 July 2025

Treasury Minute response – The remediation of dangerous cladding

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for appearing before the Committee last week. As you will remember, I said I would write to you concerning your Department's response to our Report on The remediation of dangerous cladding.

Recommendation 1

In response to Recommendation 1 in of our report, you noted that your Department would publish an updated Remediation Acceleration Plan following the outcome of the June 2025 Spending Review. In our recent hearing, you referred to the fact that the policy framework has not changed on this topic since the time of our hearing in early February of this year. Please would you therefore also provide information on whether you expect the policy framework to change following the Spending Review, and the impact this change may have on your Department's ability to respond to the Committee's recommendations, especially with regards to:

- an update on the work of your Department on proposals that address fire safety defects; and
- when you expect to be able to provide the complete proposals to the Committee.

Furthermore, I find it unsatisfactory that there is still no clear path forward to make the whole of the industry involved pay, and that this is not currently pursued in a systematic way. Developers are expected to pay, along with private owners and social housing providers, above the £5.1bn cap, and despite some developers coming forward to make voluntary payments, I am aware that compelling them all to do so has been a challenge.

Could you therefore also provide information on how you are continuing to address this challenge, and if any changes will be forthcoming following the Spending Review. Furthermore, I am still disappointed that product manufacturers of dangerous cladding are not involved under this repayment process. Further action should be taken to allocate costs to those with responsibility for this systemic issue while minimising costs to the taxpayer.

Recommendation 3

In your response to Recommendation 3, your Department agreed to write to the Committee annually on the progress made until Summer 2029, on all 18m+ and 11m+ building remediation efforts. During the session, it was clear that the Department should also continue to be conscious of those living in buildings under 11m, despite the fact that they lay outside government schemes.



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We have had it brought to our attention that the team managing the under 11m building safety audit has been dismantled in your Department, and moved into Homes England. I am concerned this may affect the ability of the Government to respond, in particular to Recommendation 3(i).

Homes England does not have a central homepage where information and updates on this matter are easily accessible. Given that your Department has accepted that those living in affected buildings continue to suffer an unacceptable financial and emotional toll, I find it surprising that key information such as this is so challenging to access.

I would therefore ask that you provide as much up to date information on this matter in your response to this letter and lay out options alongside Homes England to continue to work with full transparency and help put affected tenants at ease.

Recommendation 5(b)

I am deeply concerned that your Treasury Minute response does not go far enough to provide assurance to residents that the Department is putting them at the heart of its remediation plans. Your response not only rejects Recommendation 5(b), it also does not offer the necessary sense of urgency or fresh approaches to addressing this pressing and deep-rooted issue. We must work together to provide clarity on the remediation process so that residents can move on with their lives.

Could you therefore provide further detail in writing:

- what actions you expect the Department to be able to take if the premiums under the PAS 9980 standards have not reduced to affordable levels; and
- whether you will consider again the rejected Recommendation 5(b) following your Green Paper consultation.

I would be grateful if you could respond by **Monday 8 September**. I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours Sincerely

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts



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Cc'd

Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General

David Fairbrother OBE, Treasury Officer of Accounts