



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Samantha Dixon MBE MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Building Safety, Fire and Democracy
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Florence Eshalomi MP
Chair
Housing, Communities and
Local Government Committee

15 December 2025

Dear Florence,

Building Safety Regulator Chair: Pre-Appointment Scrutiny List

The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) will move out of the Health and Safety Executive and be established as an Arm's-Length Body of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in January 2026, subject to parliamentary approval of draft regulations to do this. Its role is to regulate higher-risk buildings, raise safety standards of all buildings, help professionals in design, construction, and building control, to improve their competence. My department intends to make interim appointments without competition to the inaugural board so that the organisation can operate on day one.

The establishment of the new body will provide MHCLG ministers with greater oversight of the BSR and its operations, particularly given the public and industry interest in the performance of the BSR and its impact on two key Government objectives: the remediation of unsafe cladding and building 1.5 million new homes. The Regulator's board needs to be in place from 27 January when powers and Accounting Officer responsibilities are expected to transfer to the new body. This is the first key date in a phased transition, with staff and services transferring across to the new body over the following 18 months.

In preparation for the creation of the body, my department intends to treat the Building Safety Regulator as a regulated public body under Article 2(4) of the Public Appointments Order in Council and add it to the List of Significant Appointments. As the chair's post meets the Cabinet Office criteria for pre-appointment scrutiny (see annex), I am seeking your agreement to this. If you agree, I will inform the Minister for the Cabinet Office and will consult you on the campaign details when preparations for the campaign begin in 2026.

I look forward to working with you on future appointments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samantha Dixon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SAMANTHA DIXON MBE MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy

Annex: Criteria for Pre-appointment scrutiny

The Government uses the following criteria to assess whether a public appointment should be subject to pre-appointment scrutiny as part of the appointment process:

Criteria	Assessment
<i>1. Posts which play a key role in regulation of actions by Government; or</i>	No – the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) does not technically regulate the actions made by Government. The BSR regulates the actions of Building Control Inspectors and of building work. The BSR is also the building control authority for high-risk buildings (HRBs), where they regulate the construction industry. It has an advisory role that influences how government implements building safety laws and standards but it does not regulate the actions of government.
<i>2. Posts which play a key role in protecting and safeguarding the public's rights and interests in relation to the actions and decisions of Government; or</i>	Yes - the BSR safeguards public rights by acting as an independent authority under the Building Safety Act 2022. It enforces building safety laws across England, ensuring all projects - including government-led ones - meet rigorous standards. With powers to issue compliance and stop notices, and impose penalties, the BSR can intervene whenever safety is at risk. Alongside enforcement, the BSR advises ministers on building safety policy and standards, shaping regulations that protect the public. It also has statutory duties to review safety standards, promote industry competence, and publish annual reports, creating transparency and accountability. Through the Gateway system, the BSR controls approvals for higher-risk buildings at key stages, giving it veto power over unsafe designs - even for government-backed projects. Strategic planning and consultation further strengthen its role, requiring engagement with residents, industry, and advisory committees to ensure government actions align with public safety priorities.
<i>3. Posts in organisations that have a major impact on public life or the lives of the public where it is vital for the reputation and credibility of that organisation that the post holder acts, and is seen to act, independently of Ministers and the Government.</i>	Yes – the BSR will have a major impact on the lives of the public through its role in enforcing and overseeing building safety standards across England. It ensures that all projects, including those led by government, comply with the Building Safety Act 2022 and meet rigorous safety requirements. The BSR has powers to issue compliance notices, stop notices, and impose penalties for breaches, giving it authority to intervene whenever safety is compromised. It is vital for the reputation and credibility of the BSR that its leadership is seen to act independently of Ministers and Government. The role is high-profile and regulatory in nature, with significant responsibility for protecting public safety. Independence of the BSR is key and has been endorsed by stakeholders and reinforced through statutory duties under the Building Safety Act. These include keeping safety standards under

	review, promoting competence across the construction sector, and publishing annual reports to ensure transparency and accountability. The Chair will play a key ambassadorial role for the BSR, leading a comprehensive programme of engagement with residents, industry, cross-government stakeholders, and the wider public to promote the regulator’s work. Accordingly, the Chair must be seen as independent from Ministers and Government to maintain trust and credibility.
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