



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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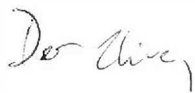
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Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee Appearance

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee on 8 November 2021 on my priorities for my department. During that hearing, I committed to follow up on a number of areas. I am therefore writing to provide this additional information to the Committee.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

You asked for further clarification on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the amount of funding that will be allocated to deprived areas. The UKSPF, as the domestic successor to the EU Structural Fund programme, will better tailor funding to local needs and contribute to the levelling up agenda by creating opportunities across the UK in places most in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities. At Spending Review 2020 the Government set out that UK-wide funding for the UKSPF would ramp up to at least match receipts from EU Structural Funds, on average reaching around £1.5 billion per year. Spending Review 2021 fulfils this commitment, with the announcement of over £2.6bn for the UKSPF, with funding reaching £1.5 billion in 2024-25.

Levels of investment from EU Structural Funds will remain high in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2022-23 and 2023-24. We are paying for this investment through our exit agreement with the EU, and so it is right that this is taken into account when working out how to scale up investment from the UKSPF.

The Spending Review also announced the creation of a new set of regional investment funds, which supersede and improve on some of the activities that have been funded in the past from EU Structural Funds. This is a substantial package of investment across all local areas that overall exceeds levels of EU investment.

Cladding

The Committee also asked for data to be provided on the number of buildings with non-ACM cladding and the number of buildings under 18 metres requiring remediation, as well as the work undertaken and who has access to the Building Safety Fund. As I set out in the hearing, there is an urgent need to deal with the persistence of dangerous cladding on tall buildings and I am committed to publishing all appropriate information in data releases.

Data collections related to External Wall Systems on high-rise residential buildings and the materials in use on residential buildings between 11 metres and 18 metres in height are currently being undertaken; the data is being analysed and will be published in due course. I will make sure to share this with the Committee once it is appropriate to do so.

My department continually reviews the information we hold and publishes all appropriate information when ready, which includes undertaking appropriate quality assurance. All new analysis is published in the release when it has been appropriately quality assured. The principle underpinning the monthly release is transparency of high-quality analytical outputs to inform decision making and the public, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

The £1 billion Building Safety Fund was announced on 11 March 2020 in the 2020/21 Budget to fund the removal and replacement of unsafe non-Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding systems from residential buildings 18 metres and above. In the private sector, registration to the Building Safety Fund is open to building owners, freeholders, or the responsible entity for buildings where the leaseholders who would otherwise be obliged to pay for the cost of removal and replacement of unsafe cladding through their service charge.

The funding is therefore to protect leaseholders from the cost of remediation. However, it is the responsibility of the building owners, freeholders, or the responsible entity for buildings to register, and, if the registration is eligible, to take forward the funding application and the procurement and contracting of the remediation.

Registrations for the Fund opened on 1 June 2020 and closed on 31 July 2020. A total of 2821 registrations to the Building Safety Fund for private sector buildings have been received covering an estimated 3195 buildings. Some registrations to the Building Safety Fund cover more than one building, for example where a registration was submitted for a residential development made up of a number of separate buildings. The attached table shows the status of the registrations to the Building Safety Fund as at 31 October 2021, which is also published under our 'Remediation of Non-ACM Buildings' page on the gov.uk website.

My Department publishes monthly data on the Building Safety Fund and a monthly Building Safety Programme Data Release on gov.uk, which focuses on buildings 18 metres and above with unsafe ACM cladding (like that on Grenfell Tower).

Turning to the period for claims under the Defective Premises Act, as I said at the Committee hearing, I am reviewing the inherited position. I will revert with my decision and the evidence I have used to reach this position in due course.

Non-UK National Rough Sleeping Data

The committee also asked about data collection on the demographics of rough sleepers who are not from the UK, particularly those who may have the 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) condition attached to their status.

As you will no doubt be aware, and as the department has acknowledged, this is a complex area. Often the term 'NRPF' is used colloquially to apply to a much wider group of people, not solely those with a specific no recourse condition attached to their immigration status. The ability of LAs to provide support is different depending on the individual terms of a person's

immigration status and that is why it is vital that LAs ensure that they are doing a full and proper assessment of an individual's status, to understand how they can best support them.

The department does not currently collect data on the number of people sleeping rough in England who are subject to a formal NRPF condition. We do, however, collect high-level nationality data about people sleeping rough and in emergency accommodation. Annually this is reported through the Rough Sleeping Snapshot which estimates the number of people sleeping rough on a single night. Our latest annual snapshot data covers Autumn 2020 and shows that 18% of the total found to be rough sleeping were EU nationals and 5% were from outside the EU and UK. The nationality of 6% of the total were 'not known'.

As well as the official annual data, we also collect a range of monitoring information which has included information on the numbers of people in emergency accommodation; we published some of this in January 2021. I am happy to update this data to include the nationality information that we hold, and to share with the Committee for their information.

Thank you again for hosting me in November.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gove', with a checkmark above the first part of the signature.

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

**Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations**

Annex A: Cladding Data

Status	31 October 2021	
	Registrations	Buildings (estimate)
Reviewed Registrations	2494	2827
Proceeding with an application for funding	708	744
Registration ineligible ^[1]	656	767
Registration withdrawn	630	740
Insufficient evidence to allow verification <i>(applicant has only provided partial information required to verify eligibility and further information has been requested)</i>	209	269
Registration eligibility currently being reviewed	291	307
No available evidence to assess verification <i>(applicant has not provided information required to verify eligibility and has not responded to requests for this information)</i>	327	368
Total	2821	3195

^[1] Figures shown include appeals which have been submitted against ineligible registrations

Annex B: BASIC NATIONALITY INFORMATION – UPDATE TO EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION SURVEY DATA: JANUARY 2021

Nationality¹ of people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough², who are currently being provided emergency accommodation³ in response to Covid-19 pandemic, by region

Region	November 2020					December 2020					January 2021				
	UK	EEA	Non-EEA	Unknown	Total	UK	EEA	Non-EEA	Unknown	Total	UK	EEA	Non-EEA	Unknown	Total
England	6,783	1,650	1,107	235	9,775	6,567	1,690	1,103	301	9,661	7,887	1,942	1,209	165	11,203
London	1,488	917	706	43	3,154	1,412	970	717	110	3,209	1,573	1,121	773	51	3,518
Rest of England	5,295	733	401	192	6,621	5,155	720	386	191	6,452	6,314	821	436	114	7,685

¹ The nationality survey question local authorities are asked to provide is 'Of those housed in emergency and short-term accommodation, how many are UK nationals/EEA nationals/Non-EEA nationals/Unknown Nationality.'

² This includes people coming in directly from the streets, people previously housed in shared night shelters and people who have become vulnerable to rough sleeping during the pandemic. The information provided is management information, not official statistics.

³ Emergency accommodation provided includes commercial hotels, B&Bs, hostels and other forms of self-contained temporary accommodation.