



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Chris Pincher MP
Minister for Housing
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: SO17016

13 January 2021

Dear Chris,

Re: Dangerous Cladding – Buildings Below 18 Metres

I am writing to you following the MHCLG Oral Questions session on 11th January. I was grateful to have the opportunity to question your department's approach to the remediation of dangerous cladding. While I was thankful to receive your response, I am afraid it was insufficient.

To recall, I asked if you would commit to funding the remediation of dangerous cladding on all buildings as soon as possible, to ensure that the homes of residents of Royal Quarter, Kingston in my constituency are made safe. In response, you stated that the Government will continue to focus solely on remediating dangerous cladding on buildings over 18 metres.

Residents of Royal Quarter recently discovered that the building in which they live does not comply with fire safety regulations. Remediation works are required, but the leaseholders have been notified that they will be expected to pay for this work without state aid, as the height of the building is under 18 metres.

Through no fault of their own, residents of Royal Quarter now face huge financial burdens as they incur costs for interim safety measures passed onto them by building owners as well as costs for the building defects. The mental and physical health of my constituents also continues to suffer as a result of living in a building encased in flammable cladding.

It is simply ludicrous that my constituents will benefit from neither the Building Safety Fund nor the Waking Watch Fund – both of which are only available to buildings over 18 metres. I appreciate that your department has chosen to prioritise support for 'high risk' buildings, but the decision to cut off all support for buildings under 18 metres is a callous one. The most dangerous forms of cladding are unsafe wrapped around buildings of *any* height.

We need to see bolder, more immediate action from the Government to speed up remediation work and the EWS1 process. On behalf of my constituents in Royal Quarter, I would be grateful if you could outline why there is currently no assistance available to residents in buildings with dangerous cladding that are under 18 metres, who are at no less risk than those in taller buildings and endure the same issues with EWS1 forms.

I look forward to a swift response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Olney".

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park