

18 July 2017



Paradigm

Mr C Heaton-Harris MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Chris

Thank you for your letter of 4 July 2017.

I understand your wish to reassure your constituents about the safety of their homes. I also regard it as a priority for Paradigm that we provide both safe homes for our residents, and reassurance to them about the effectiveness of the fire safety measures that we have in place.

Our corporate health and safety team and in-house assessors regularly liaise with local fire brigades, particularly with Bucks Fire and Rescue, which covers an area in which we own or manage 8000 homes. We have been working directly with the DCLG and local fire brigades to ensure that our fire safety systems and process are robust and reliable, particularly for those blocks which are considered higher risk by virtue of their height, resident profile or cladding type. This includes carrying out additional visits and assessments to verify that we hold the correct data and have dealt with any identified works required to ensure fire safety.

In response to your specific questions:

1. Yes – we own seven blocks which are six storeys or higher.
2. There is ACM cladding on one of these buildings – this is a new build six storey block of flats in the London Borough of Brent, and the ACM cladding is only on the top storey of this block.
3. The ACM cladding in question has been tested, and, as with all other samples, has failed the BRE's combustibility tests. We have been working with the London Fire Brigade who have inspected the building, and we are undertaking some minor works. They have not required us to remove the cladding.

#### Paradigm Housing Group

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*Providing services to Paradigm Homes, Paradigm Commercial, Paradigm Development and Paradigm Maintenance*

4. Paradigm Housing Group has a structured fire risk assessment programme. Fire Risk Assessments are updated to a clearly specified schedule. The process we follow ensures that all identified remedial works and equipment servicing regimes are prioritised, completed and documented. This includes consideration of whether the fire safety procedures are appropriate, that information is up to date and prominently displayed, and checks for any evidence that residents are not following fire safety procedures. Our Estates Team also regularly check and test fire safety measures as part of their schedule. We have published fire safety information on our website, and have provided our Customer Services contact centre with additional briefing to ensure that we are able to reassure residents who are concerned and have called in with fire safety concerns over the past month.

Whilst we will always ensure our housing stock is compliant with current fire safety regulations, we are also taking this opportunity to review current arrangements. We will incorporate the issues and findings which we expect to emerge from DCLG's expert panel and other reviews of fire safety regulation and good practice into our working practices where they are relevant to Paradigm. To that end we have established an internal fire focus group made up of senior representatives from all areas of the business that will review our current approach, ensure it is robust and calculated, and make changes and enhancements if required.

I hope that this provides you with the assurance that we are committed to ensuring that our fire safety arrangements are effective.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Bailes  
Chief Executive  
**Paradigm Housing Group**