

24 July 2017

Chris Heaton-Harris MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Chris

Thank you for your letter of 4 July regarding fire safety following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. I write as follows in response to the questions you asked:

1. **Do you own or manage buildings over six storeys?**

Derwent Housing Association owns three blocks over six storeys. We have a private subsidiary, Derwent FM, which manages 59 student blocks over six storeys on behalf of other property owners.

2. **Have you identified any cladding on these buildings as Aluminium Composite Material (ACM)?**

None of the blocks owned by Derwent Housing Association have ACM cladding.

We have identified four student accommodation blocks managed by Derwent FM that do have ACM cladding. The properties are owned by Brookfield Student Real Estate (BSRE), who are responsible for the fabric of the buildings. We are working with them to ensure that the buildings meet all building and fire safety regulations. The emergency fire safety advice published by DCLG is being followed at all of these buildings.

3. **Have you sent any ACM cladding for testing? What were the results?**

Yes. Cladding from the four blocks owned by Brookfield Student Real Estate (as referenced above) was sent for testing. In each case the cladding failed the BRE tests.

4. **What other measures have you been taking to reassure tenants and make sure they understand fire safety procedures?**

We carry out a range of measures to keep our residents and homes safe, including:

- Meeting regularly with the fire service to consider fire risk assessments and safety of our residents and homes.
- Working with independent fire advisory services to rigorously test and challenge our existing arrangements.
- Ensuring that all of our blocks have an up-to-date fire risk assessment.

- Carrying out regular tests of fire safety equipment and building inspections, in line with regulations.

We have taken a number of additional steps at all of the blocks we own following the Grenfell Tower fire. These include:

- We have already decided to fit sprinkler systems to all of our affordable housing blocks of 6 storeys or more.
- We have increased our staff presence at some tower blocks to reassure residents and provide safety advice.
- We have reviewed the fire risk assessments for all of our tower blocks with six storeys or more.
- We have reminded all tenants of the fire safety measures we have in place, with individual letters distributed to those in our blocks of six storeys or more.
- We have undertaken fire safety surgeries in our sheltered accommodation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

*P. M. McCormack*

**Peter McCormack**  
**Chief Executive**