



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

15<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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Dear Chris Heaton-Harris MP,

**Re: Morning Star Road, Daventry, NN11 9AA**

Thank you for your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> August to our Deputy Chief Executive. I note your disappointment with the lack of response to your previous correspondence regarding fire safety in light of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. I can assure you that we did not intentionally refuse to respond, unfortunately we have no record of receiving this correspondence.

We understand there will be concerns following the Grenfell Tower fire and we have been actively reassuring our residents through a number of channels. This includes regular updates through our digital channels, Response Centre, Resident groups and face to face visits. The safety of residents is our number one priority. We have robust procedures and comprehensive controls in place regarding fire safety which are reviewed and tested on a regular basis.

In Daventry we have no buildings which are six storeys or over.

**What Optivo has done and is doing right now**

- We inspect all our blocks on a regular basis and have 100% FSRA (Fire Safety Risk Assessments) in place for all blocks
- We've put together a Rapid Action Team. This group will ensure we respond positively and coordinate actions across the business to any requests from our residents the government and fire authorities
- Information about all our homes has been sent to DCLG as requested.

We own or manage 98 occupied blocks of six storeys or above.

Of the 98 blocks:

- None of the blocks are fully clad with ACM
- None of our blocks have the same cladding systems as Grenfell Tower

- We've visited all the blocks we own and manage and have carried out visual inspections of the building and fire signage to ensure that it is correct
- We have six blocks which are partially aluminium clad (less than 20% of the buildings facades)
- Two of these blocks have a third party as the freeholder Wandsworth. Optivo has a head lease and our residents occupy flats in these blocks. We are in contact with the freeholder to take samples and test the type of cladding being used.
- The remaining four blocks are owned and manage by Optivo. We've had test results back on these six storey buildings at Leaden Hill, Coulsdon, Croydon and the BRE have confirmed that the cladding on the balconies and parts of the façade are ACM. All the residents at these blocks have been informed about the results, and we are offering reassurance and keeping them fully informed. We have put an action plan in place to deal with the ACM cladding and informed the local authority, GLA, DCLG, London Fire Brigade and other stakeholders.

### **Further Actions Taken**

- We've reviewed Fire Risk Assessments for all our high rise blocks, student accommodation, care homes, retirement schemes, key worker schemes and hostels
- We've held meetings with residents where particular concerns have been raised about the safety of their homes. These meetings have also included Fire Authority and Local Authority representatives
- We've contacted the Fire Service to confirm there are no changes to evacuation or stay-put policies for all our blocks. We've checked signage in each block to ensure they're consistent with the above policies.

We'll continue to work closely with the fire authorities, as we always have done, and respond positively to any change to official guidance from them. If there are any changes to current evacuation procedures we'll act on them immediately, ensuring residents are informed.

Yours sincerely,



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