



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ83781

Peter Fox MS
MS for Monmouth
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25 November 2021

Dear Peter

I refer to Written Question 83781 tabled on 4 November regarding the progress that has been made in developing a fund to help meet the costs of fire safety remediation works in high rise buildings in Wales.

The Expressions of Interest for phase one of the Welsh Building Safety Fund (WBSF) opened on 30 September, my written statement can be viewed online; [Written Statement: Welsh Building Safety Fund- Building Passports, Expressions of Interest \(29 September 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#). Phase one will provide funding for fire risk surveys and the development of Building Remediation Passports (BRP) for all medium and high rise residential buildings in Wales. This essential first phase is open to buildings over 11m and not just high rise and it is also open to both the social and private sectors.

To ensure this first phase of the WBSF provides information and establishes processes required to develop future support we created the WBSF Task and Finish (T&F) group. This group consists of stakeholders from across various sectors working collaboratively to develop a robust and thorough process. Representatives include the Association of Residential Managing Agents (ARMA), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), UK Finance, the Association of British Insurers (ABI), local authorities and Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS). The T&F group continue to support the development of the Eol process.

While progress has been made on this highly complex issue we do not yet know exactly how many buildings are affected by fire safety defects, and to what extent. This critically important first phase of the WBSF will help us understand the true scale of the problem and what are the right solutions in order to properly address it.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Comprehensive Spending Review has been disappointing for Wales, as a Government we will have to make some very tough decisions about funding. However, please be assured building safety continues to be a priority for Welsh Government and once we have clarity on funding allocations I will be in a better position to make announcements about the future of the Welsh Building Safety Fund.

I look forward to sharing these developments with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change