June 2017

Dear Chief Executive,

I am sure that like me you have been saddened and shocked by the tragic fire at the Grenfell Tower in London. In my role as Minister responsible for Local Government, Housing and Building Standards, I am determined that, if necessary, we are in a position to be able to take appropriate action as soon as possible.

I acknowledge that there is currently much speculation in the media about the fire, and I must be clear that there is no definitive confirmation on the building products used, the causes of the fire or its spread at this stage. I understand that UK Ministers will be looking for a full investigation and we will be informed of the findings that emerge in due course. Here in Scotland, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities will convene a short term ministerial working to review Scottish regulations, ensuring they are robust and that we take any actions necessary as we learn lessons from this catastrophic fire.

I know that many of you will have or are already planning a review of your current safety procedures and assessing your building stock. However I would be very grateful if you could assist the Scottish Government to provide information on the position across Scotland. Could you please review the position in each of your local authority areas as soon as possible – I would welcome a prompt response - you should:

- identify all the high rise domestic buildings (those that have a floor which is more than 18 metres above ground level);
- ascertain the original construction; and
- establish if any remedial works (such as overcladding) have been carried out, and if so, identify the materials and construction techniques used.

I would ask that you please liaise with all registered social landlords within your local authority geographical area to work with you in collating this information.

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www.gov.scot
Such preliminary action will put you in an informed position and will assist you in taking any action necessary regarding high rise housing in your area in the months to come. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are ready to assist where they can.

I have copied this letter to the Chief Executives of COSLA, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, the Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations and to SOLACE for their awareness.

[Signature]

KEVIN STEWART