13 October 2017

Dear Bob

Building Regulations and Fire Safety in Scotland

Following the email of 12 October from the committee clerk asking some additional questions around the use of the inventory and ensuring that information requests about privately owned high rise properties is complied with, I hope that the information below can answer these.

Inventory of high rise domestic buildings

The committee was interested to know if the work associated with the inventory was a one off exercise or whether the information collected would be regularly updated. The commission for this work was publicised on 5 October and once the work is complete the Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on building and fire safety will consider how the findings can be used to best effect going forward. This will include considering the merits of such an inventory being regularly updated, who may be best placed to do that and what the longer term aim of that should be. As this work progresses there will be opportunities for stakeholders to share their views on this with the MWG.

Ensuring owners or managers of privately owned high rise properties comply with requests for information including those in multiple ownership.

The MWG group has been gathering information, primarily through local authorities, on the presence of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) in the cladding systems on privately owned high rise domestic properties. Gathering this information has been a collaborative approach between local authorities, building owners, residents, developers and factors, which in the main worked well.

The committee will be aware that the MWG now has the required information from all 32 local authorities and that Glasgow City Council is the only local authority where ACM was found to be present in some cladding systems of some private high rise domestic properties. I am however, assured by officials in Glasgow City Council that arrangements are now in place.
place to ensure that communication between the factors, residents, owners and the council is working well and that there are no outstanding issues of concern in terms of the council’s ability to gain information that has been requested.

I hope this information is helpful and provides adequate clarity on the questions asked.

Kind regards

KEVIN STEWART