Dear Bob

At the meeting of the Local Government and Communities Committee on Wednesday 27 September I agreed to write to you when I had further information relating to private high rise domestic buildings in Glasgow with Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) in their cladding systems.

On Thursday 5 October officials from Glasgow City Council (GCC) attended the Ministerial Working Group on building and fire safety and gave an oral update on the current situation and the further scrutiny that had been carried out. GCC officials confirmed that 24 private high rise domestic buildings in Glasgow have ACM in their cladding systems. The position in respect of 1 further building remains to be established and GCC have written to the factor asking for further information as quickly as possible. GCC have decided that 22 of these buildings are low risk as the extent of ACM is limited. All have received a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) operational assurance visit and have not identified any cause for concern in terms of the fire safety of the buildings. The remaining 2, with extensive coverage required further testing to establish the type of ACM.

Since 5 October, I have received a further update from GCC. With the permission of the owners association, a section of panelling from the 2 buildings mentioned above was removed for testing. Tests conducted by Edinburgh University on 6 October confirmed the ACM is a PE type. This is a lesser fire resistant type of ACM.

Immediately following the test results SFRS, GCC and the building factors put in place interim fire safety measures. These measures include:

- increased SFRS response weight to any major incident (6 engines and 1 high reach vehicle);
- residents have been told in the event of a fire they should evacuate the building rather than stay put;
- putting in place 24 hour, 7 days a week on site patrol. The factors have immediately increased concierge and security services to 24/7 with 3 people per building spread across different floors;

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• factors acting as a single point of contact taking responsibility to communicate with all residents immediately on the measures now in place; and
• the commission of a detailed fire risk assessment by an expertly qualified fire engineer, following which SFRS will review the interim measures.

GCC officials are clear that the safety of residents in these buildings is a priority. GCC see the fire safety measures being taken at present as an interim measure, and will seek to reach agreement with owners and factors on the removal and replacement of the material used in the cladding system. They will continue to prioritise any required actions in relation to the 2 buildings, working collaboratively with owners and factors and the SFRS, to ensure that a satisfactory conclusion is reached. GCC will also continue to liaise proactively with residents, owners and factors to offer advice and assistance.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with the council on this matter and have offered GCC ongoing support. The Ministerial Working Group will continue to monitor the situation and receive regular progress reports.

I hope you find this update helpful.

Kind regards

KEVIN STEWART