

# High Rise Scotland Action Group

The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Holyrood

Monday, 05 February 2024

Dear Convenor and Committee Members.

## **Cladding Remediation**

We have, in our discussions and in the evidence given to the committee, often referred to the lack of communication to owners, residents and owners, and indeed other stakeholders with regard to the progress in this serious matter.

I draw to your attention a recent specific example. This relates to my own development.

The Cladding Remediation team had agreed to supply answers to questions raised by owners, which could be placed before the Annual General Meeting of owners on 12 December 2023. Despite having had the questions well in advance, the 'answers' were provided in written format less than 3 hours before the commencement of the AGM.

A question regarding involvement of the developer and the response are stated here: -

Who is responsible for liaising with Taylor Wimpey?

Answer "There is a role for all parties to liaise and we would seek collaboration from Taylor Wimpey. SG plan to meet with Taylor Wimpey early in January and can give an update after this meeting."

It was thus, extremely disappointing to receive this in an email from Stephen Andrew, National Technical Director Taylor Wimpey, to me on Friday - 2 February

"It was a pleasure to meet you last week, and it was an insightful albeit brief conversation on the Scottish Governments work at Western Harbour. To reiterate, until our conversation we have not been involved or made aware of any assessments taking place on that development, so welcomed your candour."

The Cladding Stakeholder Group [CSG] has been given regular commitments from the government team since the Autumn of 2021 that effective regular communications were a priority, and that they would be implemented. That was not only to be with the CSG but more particularly with owners and residents. It was a regular request which I think

that probably **every**, non-government member of the CSG argued strongly for and supported, as the minutes and 'action' points will show.

Despite this, it is not happening.

In my home development, we are likely to implement a simple 6 weekly update mainly focussing on SBA progress in the previous 6 weeks specific to our development, the aim being to give the Cladding Remediation Team [CRT] a vehicle to communicate with owners and residents. If there is nothing provided, then the update will record that the CRT have been asked for an update, but have not provided it. We are looking for a short report, ideally bullet points. If there is nothing to report, then the CRT can say that, along with information on next likely action, and date for that action.

I have been discussing this with Owners Associations, individual owners and other stakeholders. The other Owner Associations have expressed a desire, and enthusiasm, to implement similar reporting, specific to their developments. They are considering using a similar template.

I hope this is helpful!

With many thanks for the work you have taken on here, and the way in which you are addressing a daunting task.

Chris Ashurst  
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High Rise Scotland Action Group