

22nd August 2025

Thank you for your reply and for confirming that the Committee shares serious concerns about the pace and performance of the Scottish Government's Cladding Remediation Programme.

While I appreciate the Committee's oversight and its request for quarterly updates, I must be direct: reassurance is not remediation. Homeowners at [redacted] have now endured over five years of delay, despite full cooperation, a completed Single Building Assessment (SBA), and a qualified design team ready to proceed. We remain trapped in unsellable, uninsurable properties — with no access to our own assessment and no timeline for works.

This is not just a slow programme. It is a broken one.

In 2021, Edinburgh Council — the statutory authority for building control — formally recommended that our cladding be replaced. That directive was clear, binding, and based on safety concerns. Yet four years later, the Scottish Government has failed to act on it. No remediation has taken place. No mitigation has been offered. And no explanation has been provided for ignoring a legal instruction from the local authority.

Meanwhile, the Cladding Remediation Team has been in place for four years. It has consumed public funds, commissioned assessments, and created layers of internal process — but it has not delivered a single metre of replaced cladding at [redacted]. The programme has become a bureaucracy unto itself, absorbing resources that should have gone directly to remediation.

The latest delay — an unexplained eight-week “project manager review” — is emblematic of this failure. It duplicates existing scrutiny, adds no value, and further obstructs delivery. It is not a safeguard. It is a stall.

It should not take a tragedy to bring urgency to this issue. But the reality is, one death from fire — God forbid — would be all it takes to shift this from a bureaucratic inconvenience to a national scandal. And when that moment comes, every official who delayed, deflected, or denied responsibility will be called to account.

We need only look to the Post Office scandal to understand how this ends. Years of institutional failure, technical excuses, and broken lives — followed by a reckoning that spared no one. The cladding remediation programme is following the same trajectory. And when the public inquiry comes, it will not matter whose name was on the final memo. Everyone involved will be asked: What did you know? What did you do? And why did you not act?

I welcome the Committee's scrutiny, but I urge you to go further. Oversight must now translate into intervention. I ask that the Committee:

- Request immediate publication of all completed SBAs, including [redacted]
- Seek clarity on the purpose and scope of the “project manager review”
- Demand a time-bound remediation plan for buildings confirmed to be unsafe

- Investigate the programme's use of public funds and its failure to act on statutory building control advice

Given the seriousness of these concerns, I respectfully ask that this response be shared in full with all Committee members.

I will continue to escalate this through formal complaints and FOI channels, but I hope the Committee will recognise that this is no longer a matter of slow progress — it is a matter of systemic failure and future accountability.

Yours sincerely,

Willie McGibbon