

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

John Griffiths MS
Chair, Local Government
and Housing Committee

SeneddHousing@senedd.wales

15 December 2022

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 25 November regarding Building Safety in Wales.

Building Safety in Wales is a priority for this Government. It is critically important that residents feel safe and secure in their homes.

This Government continues to take forward our building remediation programme, taking a different and more holistic approach to building safety, not limiting access to funding for buildings with cladding, instead considering fire risks arising from both the exterior and interior of buildings of 11m and above. This work is alongside a significant programme of reform to establish a fit for purpose building safety regime in Wales.

This is a highly complex area of work, and we are working at pace to find a solution, but it must also be the right one.

My officials are in regular contact in correspondence with members of the Welsh Cladiators. All points raised within the correspondence provided by the Committee have been addressed previously.

I have listened to and addressed calls from the Welsh Cladiators to enact Sections 116-125 of the UK Building Safety Act in Wales swiftly and where possible in emergency legislation.

Sections 116-125 of the Building Safety Act 2022 apply provisions to enforce developers to engage in Building remediation. These provisions apply only to England and cannot be commenced in Wales by secondary legislation. Moreover, those sections could not simply be copied into Welsh law because they are tailored to the (significantly different) situation applicable in England.

Whilst I believe in the merit of applying certain provisions set out in the Building Safety Act 2022, not all provisions are suitable in a Welsh context. I also believe that emergency legislation is not an appropriate vehicle in this circumstance. This approach presents a material risk that relevant Committees would not have the necessary time to scrutinise the Bill or hear from stakeholders on the merits of bringing forward such legislation.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Committee members will be aware that we debated this subject of legislation for Building Safety on 16 November at the Senedd. A transcript and video are available to read and watch [here](#).

This Government will be bringing forward its own Primary Legislation. The First Minister has committed to introduce a draft Bill within this Senedd Term. I am unable to confirm exact timings for introduction, however Officials are engaged on this matter and are continuing to develop the underpinning policy work that will support the development of draft legislation.

I will ensure that any Primary Legislation introduced meets the intended effect within a Welsh context.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
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