

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1083
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00476/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
petitions@senedd.wales

1 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 9 February 2021 regarding Petition P-05-1083.

In relation to your query on the value of funding consequential that Welsh Government has received as a result of spending on this issue by the UK Government, Welsh Government received a consequential amounting to £58.873m in capital and £1.177m in revenue. In accordance with devolution, consequential funding forms part of the Welsh Government Budget and is allocated by the Cabinet in response to the specific needs and circumstances in Wales. As I mentioned in my previous reply, at that time Welsh Ministers were taking very difficult decisions about how money would be spent in Wales in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, we remain committed to financial support to help fund remediation in a way that is fair to leaseholders and tax payers. We have committed £10.5m to remediate buildings in the social sector this year and £32m of funding to support remediation for both the private and social sector in 2021/22.

Our intention is to establish a funding offer for Wales that goes further than that proposed in England. As residents in high rise buildings know, addressing only the issues of cladding does not go far not enough. The fund we intend to offer will support holistic remediation of buildings, looking beyond cladding to include compartmentation, fire breaks and – importantly – fire alert, evacuation and suppression systems.

We want to ensure that not only are high rise residential buildings rid of **all** fire safety risks but that they are well equipped to protect life and limb in the unfortunate event that there is a fire.

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.

This is a complex matter and it is this complexity that is dictating the pace of driving this work forward; it is not a reflection of any lack of commitment to supporting those affected. We will provide the Committee with further details on the funding offer as soon as we can.

There have also been recent developments that may have further implications for consequential funding for Wales in this area. You may be aware that on 10 February Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, announced additional funding to address unsafe cladding in England and wider measures to improve building safety. I was disappointed that an announcement of this significance on a topic of shared interest, where there are elements of joint work and some matters are not devolved, was made without prior consultation, or engagement at a meaningful level, between the Welsh and UK Governments. I have written to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, expressing my disappointment and requesting urgent clarification on details of key elements of this announcement.

It is not yet clear what funding Wales might receive as a result of this announcement. I have requested more detail on this. My expectation is that Wales should receive its fair share of funding as a result of spending commitments in England. This will help us to be able to deliver what we need to in Wales, in relation to building safety. We have been clear that building safety is a priority for this government and once we have clarity on how much additional funding Wales will receive, Ministers collectively will decide on how that funding is used.

I have issued a statement on the UK Government announcement and funding commitments made in Wales to support building remediation: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-building-safety-uk-government-announcement>.

I hope this information is useful to you and Committee members.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government