

Julie James MS

Minister for Housing and Local Government

30 October 2020

Dear Julie

Building Safety in high-rise buildings

As you know, our Committee has been looking at the issues around building safety in high rise buildings since the Grenfell fire. We intend to revisit these issues in more detail following the publication of the White Paper on Building Safety, which we understand is likely to be published in New Year. Could you provide more specific details of when this White Paper can be expected?

In the meantime, I have been contacted by leaseholders in Prospect Place, outlining some of the issues that they are facing. I have agreed that I would highlight their concerns with you. Please find enclosed the letter I have received.

I note that the First Minister said in Plenary on 14 October in response to a question on fire safety:

“We are looking within the Welsh Government at the possibility of a building safety fund to support leaseholders while not creating the moral hazard of paying the bills of failed building firms and landlords. To do that would simply be to remove the responsibility from them and to encourage irresponsible behaviour in the future. But we are looking at ways in which leaseholders themselves could be supported, and I know that my colleague, the Minister with responsibility for this, has a meeting on Thursday of this week to continue to find a way in which we can meet their needs, while not creating, as I say, the moral hazard of bailing out people with public money from the private responsibilities that they ought to discharge.”



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I also note the written statement you issued on Friday 23 October. Can you provide us with more detail on the different funding models you are currently exploring; an update on any discussions with the UK Government and other devolved governments; and a timeframe on when there will be some support made available to residents and owners?

I have copied in [REDACTED] into this correspondence.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and connected.

John Griffiths MS

Chair

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Enclosure: Correspondence from [REDACTED]

