



Dame Judith Hackitt
Chair, Industry Safety Steering Group
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1 4DF

09.04.19

Dear Dame Judith

FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ISSG AND THE CLC

Thank you for your letter of 13 March, following the meeting of the Industry Safety Steering Group (ISSG) attended by Ann Bentley. On behalf of the Construction Leadership Council (CLC), I would like to thank you for taking the time to write, and to outline your thoughts on how the CLC and the ISSG can work together in future.

The CLC and the ISSG share the common objective of improving the performance of the construction sector. Whilst clients work with industry to increase efficiency and reduce costs, it is vital that this is done alongside ensuring that the process of design, construction and subsequent management of the asset deliver long term value without compromising the quality and safety of built assets. As you set out in your letter, changing this will require the industry to transform its business model through the adoption of new technologies and new skills, clients will need to introduce new procurement procedures and a culture of quality and safety needs to be embedded across all areas of the industry.

I believe that much of the work that the CLC is leading through the Construction Sector Deal will have a positive impact on safety and the performance of the sector. The work that Ann has been undertaking on procuring for value will encourage clients to focus on outcomes, including whole life performance, functionality and impact on end-users and safety, rather than cost. This approach will help to both drive the change in culture that is required, and also to reduce some of the practices, such as poor payment, that undermine the ability of the industry to function effectively. The work on innovation, funded by the £170m Transforming Construction Programme and matching funding from industry will develop and commercialise digital and offsite manufacturing technologies. These will both provide the comprehensive data or "golden thread" of information about a building, but also enable it to be produced more quickly and efficiently and to consistently higher standards of safety and quality.

However, I recognise that there is scope for greater collaboration between the ISSG and the CLC. As part of the workstream on skills, we are committed to working with BuildUK and the Construction Industries Council to improve levels of competence within the industry, including in relation to building safety. We will explore with those organisations how we might take this forward, particularly in relation to the development of new

apprenticeship standards and in our work to define and develop a strategy to deliver the skills that the industry will need in the future.

To emphasise the importance of these issues, the CLC is planning to issue a public statement on the importance of building safety, and the need for industry to learn the lessons of the Grenfell Tower fire. This will set out what work the CLC is undertaking through the Construction Sector Deal, and what this will deliver, and also the need to embed new working practices that improve building safety and the importance of cultural change within the industry. A copy of the statement is enclosed with this letter.

Having discussed this with you it is clear that we both agree that the CLC and ISSG leads should meet to discuss how we might help and support each other to achieve our collective aims.

Yours sincerely



Andy Mitchell
Co-Chair, Construction Leadership Council

CLC STATEMENT

Construction Leadership Council Statement: Building a Safer Future

The Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017 was the worst fire in a residential building since the Second World War. The tragic and avoidable loss of 72 lives has resulted in action to improve safety in all high rise residential buildings, as well as schools and hospitals. It has also led the construction and built environment sector involved in the design, delivery and operation of buildings, to reflect on its existing practices, and to seek to improve the system of building safety, reform working practices and to clarify roles and responsibilities to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

The Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, Chaired by Dame Judith Hackitt, identified a systemic failure within the UK in relation to its approach to ensuring building safety. It recommended both radical reform of the Building Regulations, and a fundamental change in the culture of the construction and built environment sector with regard to building safety, and to embed this at the heart of its operation.

Achieving this will involve a significant effort by clients, contractors, product manufacturers, operators, maintainers, professional advisors and regulators, as the safety of buildings depends on the actions of many different people. A systems approach is required, in relation to: the design and construction of built assets; the regulation and inspection of buildings; the competence of those who work on them; clear lines of accountability for managing risks and ensuring building safety at every phase of the life cycle of a building; product safety, testing and traceability; and the development and maintenance of accurate information about buildings. The construction and built environment sectors must be willing to adopt and embed new working practices, and to change the culture of the industry, to ensure that those with the relevant professional expertise are both responsible and accountable for delivering and managing buildings to ensure their safety.

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) is committed to driving the adoption of this new approach through its own work, and to working with other bodies, associations, institutions and companies within the construction and built environment sector to drive the necessary changes in behaviour and the culture of the industry. It will also ensure that the commitments included in the Construction Sector Deal will help to deliver better buildings that are, and feel, safe for people to live in.

- Outcome-based, transparent and efficient procurement strategies are central to the CLC work on procuring for value, which aims to ensure that public and private sector clients adopt a new approach to commissioning built assets. This supports a risk-based approach with a focus on safety and sustainability over the life of the asset, and will help to change the business model of the sector.
- There is a £420m commitment to invest in new digital and manufacturing technologies. This will enable a robust 'golden thread of information' is passed across to future owners and used through the lifecycle of built assets through the creation of comprehensive data about the design, safety features and materials used in all built assets. It will also produce these assets to consistently high standards of performance and safety offsite.
- The CLC work on skills will create a comprehensive new framework to support firms to invest in training and retraining their workforce, and to ensure that they are equipped to use new technologies and techniques to deliver better, safer buildings.

The CLC also fully supports the work of the Industry Safety Steering Group (ISSG) and the Industry Response Group, and is committed to working closely with both in the future. The ISSG and IRG have played key roles in ensuring the industry can work together, on issues such as product safety and testing, and to develop a new approach to competence. The CLC will work to ensure that, where possible, the outputs of the ISSG and IRG are taken forward within the relevant CLC workstreams, and that the wider work of the CLC and ISSG is complementary.

There is a clear and urgent need for the construction and built environment sector and its clients to adopt a new approach to building safety, and to embed this at the heart of the sector. The CLC is committed to supporting this, and to maintaining a focus of delivering safer buildings at the centre of the Construction Sector Deal. We will continue to work with businesses, trade associations, professional institutions the Government and the wider public sector to deliver these essential changes.