

Dame Judith Hackitt
Chair, Industry Safety Steering Group
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

16.04.21

Dear Dame Judith,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2020, and for the opportunity to present the Construction Leadership Council's (CLC) progress on developing the Building Safety Workstream to the Industry Safety Steering Group (ISSG) on 7 December.

Since the ISSG meeting, the CLC has been working in earnest to develop the building safety workstream and numerous discussions have taken place with colleagues in MHCLG, HO, OPSS and HSE. Through these discussions, we have gained a greater understanding of what others are seeking to do in the building safety arena and as stated at the ISSG meeting, we are very much looking to align our work and messaging with others.

Our work on building safety will not seek to duplicate what others are doing. It will focus on the contribution that the CLC is best placed to make, and those areas where we can add value to the wider Building Safety Programme. To that end, we have 'mapped' the work of the Building Safety Programme, including identifying the links between our core work and that of the Programme. As a live and rapidly evolving programme, we will continue to routinely undertake this work to ensure we continue to add value.

In turn, we have now developed a small number of core objectives including competence, product safety, Professional Indemnity Insurance, golden thread and leadership and culture change.

On the fundamental matter of competence in the industry, the Competence Steering Group continues its leadership role in this space and is working hard to develop and embed the principles outlined in 'Setting the Bar' in the industry. It is working closely, both with the British Standards Institution to develop the competence standards needed for the built environment and is also aligning itself with the CLC's People and Skills group to produce policies that will lead to increased capacity of people in the industry and the skills they hold. This work is continuing at pace and we can provide a further update on this work, in due course.

With regard to construction products, a consultation recently completed on the Code for Construction Product Information. The CPA Marketing Integrity Group leading this work will now be analysing the responses and developing the Code further. The Group would be delighted to keep you informed on progress.

In respect of the golden thread of information, discussions are ongoing between the CLC's own Digital Group and with counterparts in the Building Safety Programme at MHCLG and the BRAC Golden Thread working group on how to join up our work. We are in the early stages of developing objectives for the building safety workstream, but our intention is to ensure that the work we are doing in relation to the development and adoption of digital technologies such as Building Information Management (BIM) enables these to support the delivery of the golden thread. We would be happy to share these objectives with you, once they are finalised.

The thorny issue of Professional Indemnity Insurance is causing much concern in the industry and it has the potential to slow down government's efforts to carry out its remediation work. To that end, the CLC launched a survey to ascertain the extent of the problem. This survey closed on 12 March and received over 1000 responses. The survey data has been published and we will be actively working with government and industry to identify solutions.

In March, the CLC published its mid-term 2021 Strategy. A central priority is status and trust in the industry. Building capability and culture in our industry to assure our clients and our people of the quality, safety and sustainability of our work and the jobs we create. The key to unlocking the issues surrounding building safety will be the CLC's work on leadership and culture change, both in the immediate (new and existing High Risk Residential Buildings) and longer term for the entire industry. I am keen for the CLC to both drive and lead the necessary culture change that the new regulatory regime is seeking to facilitate. The members of the Council will seek to ensure that messages about what good practice looks like are disseminated. Discussions are ongoing about what more the CLC can do to show leadership and move the industry forward.

In the first instance we have proposed the establishment of a joint communications group across key stakeholders - BEIS, MHCLG, HO, HSE and OPSS. The aim of this group is not only to ensure greater understanding and up to date knowledge of each other's work but to join up messaging and maximise routes of communication to the industry and wider stakeholders. A key role for the CLC is to build industry awareness and education. We plan to develop an education initiative in conjunction with this group.

I look forward to attending a future ISSG meeting along with the workstream co-chairs to keep you apprised of our work on building safety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Andy Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andy Mitchell
Co-Chair, Construction Leadership Council

cc:
Peter Caplehorn, Chief Executive, Construction Products Association
Graham Watts, Chief Executive, Construction Industry Council