

Dame Judith Hackitt
Chair, Industry Safety
Steering Group

**Ministry of Housing Communities
and Local Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

21st December 2020

Dear Andy, Graham and Peter,

I am writing to thank you for attending the virtual Industry Safety Steering Group (ISSG) meeting on 7th December 2020.

As you know, the ISSG was formed to scrutinise industry proposals and progress towards culture change on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The role of the ISSG is to provide appropriate constructive challenge to industry, which it does by recommending actions and making proposals to overcome blockages and accelerate industry culture change. I hope that you recognise our commitment to this role from the nature of our discussions with you at this and previous meetings. As Chair of the ISSG, I continue to report to Ministers on the progress that industry is making to implement the changes that are needed to improve building safety and to rebuild public confidence.

The ISSG was pleased to hear the progress CLC is making in prioritising Building Safety, as well as Net Zero, as one of its key deliverables over the next year and that you are confident that CLC has all the tools to communicate these necessary messages out to the wider industry. The ISSG was encouraged by the new workstream on Building Safety to focus on this. This workstream will need to be planned carefully to ensure that all the right voices are being heard around the table and that it includes representation from those with increased responsibility in the new regulatory regime, such as buildings owners and clients.

In regard to the new regulatory regime, we all agree that the outputs of the CLC's workstream need to align with the work of the Building Safety Programme. Work must be complementary and not duplicated. I was reassured that you plan to work with MHCLG and HSE on engagement with the wider industry and to deliver a joint awareness campaign around Building Safety. The CLC has a vital role in driving the culture change work forward and drawing together leaders in the industry to deliver meaningful change. The ISSG is encouraged that CLC is taking the necessary steps to deliver this. I want to reiterate what I said at the meeting about there being merit in having an ISSG member/s as part of the CLC's advisory network or to sit on the CLC/Building Safety working group to join together our work. Whilst we regard our primary role as Constructive challenge, that does include responding with offers of help and support where this would be welcomed. Please engage with MHCLG officials on this, and we can discuss who might be the right candidate to deliver value to your work.

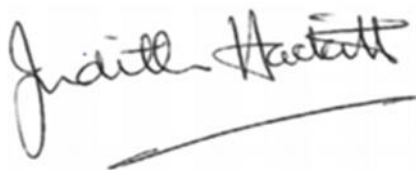
We were pleased to receive an update on the Competence Steering Group and the work it is doing to implement the recommendations from Setting the Bar. The ISSG wants to recognise the hard work that went into producing this report but is now keen to see how the work continues into the implementation and delivery phase. It is reassuring to see the CSG working across a number of fronts to engage and align the competence work with the wider landscape, including with MHCLG, the BSI BECS group and HSE, as the future Building Safety Regulator. As this work progresses, I mentioned that it would be helpful to focus more on capacity within industry in the new regime and the upskilling required to deliver the intended outcomes. This should dovetail with the wider competence reforms to deliver a joined-up response across industry.

The ISSG was also interested in Peter's update on the competence working group on products and the work that is going on to publish a Code of Construction Product Information. Once this is ready, it would be good if this could be shared with the ISSG and we may invite the working group to a future meeting to discuss in more detail the work around a product competence matrix. There is no doubt at all that there is much more work to be done on Product testing and information provision in the light of recent submissions to the Public Inquiry.

Another theme from the meeting that is relevant to your session was that industry culture change is a long-term project that needs to start in earnest now and will take us all beyond the establishment of the Building Safety Regulator and the Building Safety Bill. CLC has a vital role to play as its broad view across the whole of the construction industry will be central to sharing good practice which already exists and ensuring that buildings are safe and of high quality. We must be clear that in the short term this includes calling out the poor practices which continue and stopping the building of dangerous buildings because people are reluctant to act now. I would encourage CLC to consider how it plans to tackle this issue and engage the ISSG to support this work where necessary. Again we stand ready to help or to call on others to support you if that would be helpful.

Finally, you mentioned that you plan to map the key deliverables of the Building Safety workstream by the end of January 2021. I would appreciate sight of this as a response to this letter, once it is ready.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Hackitt', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Dame Judith Hackitt