

# MDA No.: 1354

## Title: Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP) Committee – Building Safety Letter

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the FREP Committee meeting on 22 September 2021 on the topic of building safety, the Committee resolved that:

*Authority be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.*

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chairman is asked to agree the Committee's letter to the Minister for Building Safety and Fire as attached at **Appendix 1**.

### 2. Decision

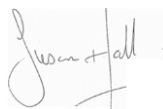
2.1 **That the Chairman, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, agrees the letter to the Minister for Building Safety and Fire, attached at Appendix 1.**

#### Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature:**



**Printed Name:**

**Susan Hall AM, Chairman of the FREP Committee**

**Date:**

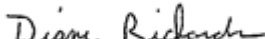
**14 December 2021**

### 3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

#### Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 On 22 September 2021, the Committee delegated authority to the Chairman, in consultation with party Group Lead Members to approve the output from the discussion on building safety.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter to the Minister for Building Safety and Fire will be formally submitted to the FREP Committee's next appropriate meeting for noting.

#### Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): 

Printed Name: Diane Richards, Committee Officer

Date: 13 December 2021

Telephone Number: 07925 353478

#### Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Date: Not Required

#### Legal Implications:

The Chair of the FREP Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Date: 13 December 2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 6550

#### Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Anne Clarke AM, Hina Bokhari AM and Zack Polanski AM

### 4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FOIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

**Part 1 - Deferral:**

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? **NO**

If yes, until what date:

**Part 2 – Sensitive Information:**

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? **NO**

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**Lead Officer / Author**

Signature: P. Goffe

Printed Name: Philippa Goffe

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 13 December 2021

Telephone Number: 07729 625453

**Countersigned by Executive Director:**

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 13 December 2021

Telephone Number: 07813 796 175

# LONDON ASSEMBLY



**Susan Hall AM**

**Chairman of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee**

Lord Stephen Greenhalgh  
Minister for Building Safety and Fire  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

(Sent by email)

15 December 2021

Dear Stephen,

**London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee: actions following meeting on 22 September 2021**

I am writing to you on behalf of the London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP) Committee following its meeting on 22 September 2021. At this meeting, the Committee discussed the issues of building and fire safety and their impacts on the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the impact on Londoners living in high rise buildings with fire safety defects.

The Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, attended the meeting to report on progress of remediation of London buildings under the Building Safety Programme (BSP), applications made to the Waking Watch Relief Fund and associated matters impacting London buildings and their residents. The Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development oversees the team administering BSP remediation of buildings in London.

The London Fire Brigade told us that, as at 15 September 2021, 1,003 buildings in London had simultaneous evacuation measures in place as 'stay put' had been suspended due to fire safety defects. These buildings require waking watches or a common fire alarm system, with some having a common fire alarm system but still needing simultaneous evacuation in the event of a fire;

approximately one third of the total applies to each category. It is a concern that so many buildings remain dependent on simultaneous evacuation pending remediation of fire safety defects.

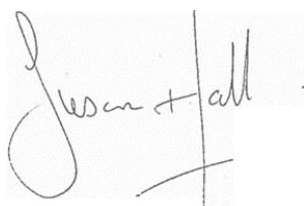
The Committee asked about applications to the Government's Waking Watch Relief Fund. The Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development told us that there have been 111 applications in London covering 159 buildings (some applications covered multiple buildings). But he also said that 675 buildings in London currently have waking watches. This gap highlights that the Waking Watch Relief Fund is currently only available for residential buildings over 18 metres in height, although there may also have been some buildings that did not apply to the fund in time. We understand that the fund has now reopened so the latter category have another opportunity to apply for funding.<sup>1</sup>

However, the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development told the Committee that less than half the fund has been allocated which indicates a significant underspend is likely. **The Committee welcomes the Government's decision to provide a further £5 million of support to the Waking Watch Relief Fund and calls on it to provide further funding if required. Furthermore, the Committee urges the Government to open the fund to residential buildings of less than 18 metres in height so their residents can also benefit from the fund and be relieved of the costs of waking watches.**

In our discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, he spoke about London boroughs being asked by your Department to do an audit of residential buildings between 11 to 18 metres in height to identify those with dangerous cladding, both ACM and non-ACM. This is not a straightforward exercise and is incurring costs for boroughs when budgets are under pressure. It is also the case that there are a large number of these buildings. **The Committee would be grateful if the Department could provide extra funding to London boroughs to support the important audit work being undertaken.**

I would appreciate a response to the recommendations identified in this letter by 24 December 2021.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'H'.

**Susan Hall AM**

**Chairman of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> Gov.uk, [WWRF reopens for applications](#) from 16 September 2021