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Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson
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Ms Hina Bokhari OBE AM
Chair of the London Assembly Fire Committee
London Assembly
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31 March 2025

Dear Hina,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March on behalf of the London Assembly's Fire Committee, about concerns and questions around the new Residential Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (RPEEPs) policy.

This Government has looked carefully at how to address the Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations, including through the two public consultations on PEEPs under the previous administration. These consultations received a wide range of responses with very varied views, including those of various Fire and Rescue services, as set out in the Government Response to the Consultation published on 2 December 2024, available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6749d82d75bb645366b3a252/Emergency Evacuation Information Sharing Plus EEIS+ consultation response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6749d82d75bb645366b3a252/Emergency_Evacuation_Information_Sharing_Plus_EEIS+_consultation_response.pdf).

I welcome that the London Assembly, and the London Fire Commissioner, view our new RPEEPs policy as marking a step forward. The policy will mandate steps which building owners/managers of high-rise residential buildings, and of 11-18m buildings with a simultaneous evacuation strategy, will need to carry out with each vulnerable resident. This will include a person-centred fire risk assessment ('PCFRA'), to consider measures both to improve fire safety in the building, and to facilitate evacuation.

The new policy only places new duties on the Responsible Person (RP) and not the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS). Under this new policy FRS will have more information available to them on vulnerable residents living in these buildings, meaning a more informed operational response and evacuation or rescue if necessary. The FRS can choose what form they want to receive the information in, either electronically, or as I understand LFB prefer, in a Secure Information Box on the premises.

As part of the development of these regulations, LFB and other technical professionals were engaged to ensure we had the right approach to enforcement of the policy. Under these regulations FRSs would be able to enforce that there was a RPEEPs process in place in the building. There is no expectation that FRS would review individual RPEEP statements.

My officials are continuing to engage with the sector to develop supportive materials for this policy. This includes statutory guidance for RPEEPs and engagement on this will

follow the section 50 process with a wide range of stakeholders including LFB. An RP's toolkit is also being produced and will be shared in draft to then be published alongside the regulations as soon as we are able.

The Government has committed funding to begin this important work by supporting social housing providers to deliver Residential PEEPs for their renters. Future years' funding for social housing providers is being considered in the Spending Review.

I want to thank the LFB for their ongoing support and engagement on the policy, which will improve the fire safety and evacuation of disabled/vulnerable residents in high-rise and higher-risk residential buildings in England. You may also be aware that as of 1 April, the responsibility for wider fire safety in buildings is being moved to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. I am confident that your Committee and the LFB will continue to provide support to my colleague, the Minister for Local Growth and Building Safety, Alex Norris MP in the future.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Diana Johnson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'D' and 'J'.

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention