



**Hina Bokhari OBE AM**  
**Chair of the Fire Committee**

Dame Diana Johnson  
Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire  
Home Office

(Sent by email)

11 March 2025

Dear Dame Diana,

We sought participation by officials from your Department in the London Assembly's Fire Committee (the Committee) on 14 January 2025, but they were unable to attend. I am therefore writing to you to share some of the concerns and questions for Government arising from that meeting that we had hoped to discuss with them. In this meeting, the Committee examined the impact of the new building safety regime on the London Fire Brigade, and progress of remediation of London's multi-storey residential buildings.

In the Committee's meeting we heard concerns raised by Andy Roe KFSM, London Fire Commissioner (LFC), about the proposed new residential personal emergency evacuation plans (RPEEPs) for vulnerable residents. Given the large number of high-rise and higher risk buildings in London, this is an issue the Committee has had a longstanding interest in.

When the Committee asked the LFC about the Government proposals for residential PEEPs (RPEEPs) he said he welcomed them "in as far as how much they have moved from where we started."<sup>1</sup> He added:

"[W]e think it is much better than where we were but we will need to understand all the detail that lies beneath it and how it will be practically implemented before we can say

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<sup>1</sup> [London Assembly Fire Committee Transcript 14 January 2025](#), p29

reasonably what parts of it we think are really going to operate well and other bits that seem like they might need to go a bit further.”<sup>2</sup>

The Committee shares the LFC’s view that these proposals do mark a step forward. Yet, there are areas of uncertainty on which we wish to seek clarification:

- **The role of the responsible person:** We heard from the LFC that clarification was required on the role of the responsible person “in the context of what decisions they are enabled to take, what their responsibilities are and then how we might regulate and enforce against it”.<sup>3</sup> The consultation response identified that a toolkit for responsible persons would be developed. This toolkit needs to be introduced urgently.
- **Funding:** Alongside supporting the rollout of these new proposals for RPEEPs, LFB also has substantial new responsibilities under the new building safety regime. We heard from the LFC that: “We need to know – really as a basic premise – what scale of funding sits beneath this ... because there are 1.2 million disabled Londoners. If we think only ten per cent of those live across high and medium-rise environment, then that is still 120,000 people who might need support.”<sup>4</sup> Without adequate funding there is a risk that these new plans – laudable as they may be – will not come forward; or this work could ultimately come at a cost to other areas of LFB’s responsibilities.
- **Enforcement:** We heard from the LFC that he wants “to understand how we can usefully be part of the enforcement of any regulation that follows, again, within the context of another duty placed upon us. We fully accept that duty; it is very important to us.”<sup>5</sup>

The Committee welcomes the Government response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report and the agreement to take forward action on all the commitments. The Committee welcomes the commitment to legislate for RPEEPs later in 2025 and provide funding to social housing providers. However, it would like to know:

1. **How and when you will consult Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) on regulations and guidance for RPEEPs?**
2. **Whether you will consult LFB specifically given the significant number of buildings in London that will be impacted by RPEEPs?**
3. **When the toolkit for responsible persons in RPEEPs will be published?**
4. **What funding is being considered to support RPEEPs and how this will be applied across the different housing sectors?**
5. **How the Government envisions enforcement of RPEEPs and what role is envisioned for FRSs?**

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<sup>2</sup> [\(Public Pack\)Minutes Appendix 1 Fire Committee Transcript January 2025 Minutes Supplement for Fire Committee, 14/01/2025 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) p29

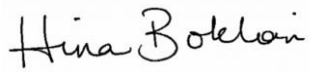
<sup>3</sup> [\(Public Pack\)Minutes Appendix 1 Fire Committee Transcript January 2025 Minutes Supplement for Fire Committee, 14/01/2025 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) p30

<sup>4</sup> [\(Public Pack\)Minutes Appendix 1 Fire Committee Transcript January 2025 Minutes Supplement for Fire Committee, 14/01/2025 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) p29

<sup>5</sup> [\(Public Pack\)Minutes Appendix 1 Fire Committee Transcript January 2025 Minutes Supplement for Fire Committee, 14/01/2025 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) p29

I would be grateful if you could please respond to the Committee by 8 April 2025. Your response should be copied to Philippa Goffe, the Committee's Senior Policy Adviser ([philippa.goffe@london.gov.uk](mailto:philippa.goffe@london.gov.uk)).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hina Bokhari". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'H' and 'B'.

Hina Bokhari OBE AM  
**Chair of the Fire Committee**