

Ben Llewellyn Director for Remediation Policy

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Fry Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

By email

## Subject: MHCLG funding to support the remediation of high-rise and mid-rise private sector residential buildings with unsafe cladding.

Dear Local Authority Chief Executive,

This letter is to formally notify you that MHCLG has allocated your Local Authority £67,777 for 2025/26 to support building safety enforcement in your area. This funding will be transferred to you by end-April 2025.

This funding is to support the key role you play in driving the remediation of private sector residential buildings with unsafe cladding in your area. We will continue to share data on buildings with you to aid your decisions. It is your responsibility to act in accordance with the Housing Act 2004 and Building Safety Act 2022 where there are concerns about the safety of a mid- or high-rise building.

We expect your local authority will be working closely with partners and regulators to:

- continue to keep the housing conditions in your area under review and have a clear prioritisation framework.
- investigate relevant buildings in your area and inspect according to your prioritisation framework to determine any fire hazards.
- assess any risks arising and take appropriate action.
- ensure that robust and up to date remediation plans are in place for each building.
- upload dates of inspection and enforcement action taken against individual buildings with unsafe cladding onto the collection that is currently live on the Department's <u>DELTA portal</u> by the end of each month.
- work with your mayoral strategic authority to delivery their local remediation acceleration plan.
- act in line with the <u>Remediation Enforcement Guidance</u> (REG). This will include establishing a partnership working agreement, and agreeing criteria for designating a lead regulator in each case.

Those responsible for the safety of their buildings must ensure they are made safe without delay – the funding is there to do so. A key component of our strategy to

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remediate unsafe buildings involves regulators, especially local authorities (LAs) identifying, monitoring and inspecting buildings and then pursuing appropriate enforcement action.

Metro Mayors have agreed to produce local remediation acceleration plans, convening local and national regulators in order to drive the pace of remediation in their areas. The Department and Mayors will work together in ensuring all tools available to regulators are used with maximum effect. The Department and Metro Mayors will seek assurances where progress has stalled on a building's progress towards remediating identified risks, that you and the fire services have decided which partner is best placed to take effective and proportionate action to drive the pace of remediation, using enforcement where needed.

In addition to your continued use of Delta, my team will be requiring quarterly updates on how your funding is being spent, to track progress and inform future grant arrangements. We are developing proposals for multiyear funding and we will monitor authority performance and take this into consideration for future funding allocation.

We will also continue to publish aggregate numbers of the enforcement action taken by each local authority as part of our <u>monthly building safety data releases</u>.

We have also recently launched the <u>Remediation Enforcement Support Fund</u>; all authorities can apply for funding for legal advice enforcement cases. In addition to funding, you still have access to support from the <u>Joint Inspection Team (JIT</u>); this is **free** to local authorities. They are a team of building safety experts who can support you in inspecting your most complex buildings. Due to demand for their services, they prioritise buildings that are 18m+ with suspected external wall defects. JIT provide a comprehensive written report following the inspection and can also talk through potential enforcement actions and advise on next steps to take for you to consider. JIT also offer regular face to face training for Environmental Health Officers on building safety. They can be contacted at JIT@local.gov.uk.

If you have any questions, please contact my officials at LocalRegulatorEngagement@communities.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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**BEN LLEWELLYN** 

Director for Remediation Policy Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government