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Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
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Our reference: PO2024/06739

22 April 2024

Dear Ameet,

Thank you for your letter of 8 March regarding support for Burnt Oak residents in timber frame and timber or UPVC clad homes. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

I appreciate you taking the time to write in on the residents' behalf, and I am sorry for the difficulties that they are facing. The Department is aware of the action being taken by Barnet Council following the Moss Hall Grove fire in June 2023. I understand that Departmental colleagues met Barnet Council representatives on 10 April and are arranging a visit to the affected buildings to discuss the investigation and its findings further.

I note Barnet Council's view that these homes no longer meet more stringent post-Grenfell building standards as a rationale for action. However, I should highlight that Building Regulations apply only to new building works and not retrospectively to existing buildings.

The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) is aware of the situation and is keeping it under review in line with their duty under the Building Safety Act 2022. I can also assure you that colleagues will continue to liaise with the BSR, Barnet Council, and other local authorities as appropriate on this issue.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Budnick

Alex Badrick

Deputy Principal Private Secretary