



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building
Safety*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: PO2024/06115

Cllr Barry Rawlings
Leader, London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
London
NW9 2EW

cc:

Cath.shaw@barnet.gov.uk

theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk

16 April 2024

Dear Cllr Rawlings,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March to the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, regarding support for residents in timber frame and timber or UPVC clad homes. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area. Please accept my apologies for the delay in sending this response.

I am grateful for you getting in touch and thank you for sharing your concerns.

To ensure you receive a substantive and prompt response, I have instructed officials in the Department to provide an update on your specific concerns, which is appended.

I have instructed officials in the Department to provide an update on your specific concerns, which is appended.

Thank you again for writing on this important matter.

Yours ever,

LEE ROWLEY MP



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: PO2024/06115

Cllr Barry Rawlings
Leader, London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
London
NW9 2EW

cc:
Cath.shaw@barnet.gov.uk
theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk

16 April 2024

Dear Cllr Rawlings,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March to the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, regarding support for residents in timber frame and timber or UPVC clad homes. I am sorry for the delay in sending you a reply. This issue falls within the remit of the Minister of State, and he has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Departmental officials met with Barnet Council representatives on 10 April to discuss the investigation and its findings further. They are now engaging to arrange a follow-up visit.

Officials here will continue to liaise with the Building Safety Regulator (BSR), Barnet Council, and other local authorities as the issues are further investigated. The BSR is aware and is keeping the situation under review in line with their duty under the Building Safety Act.

I note your view that these homes no longer meet more stringent post-Grenfell building standards as a rationale for action. However, Building Regulations apply only to new building works and not retrospectively to existing buildings. I would be grateful if you could share Barnet Council's risk assessment methodology used in reaching decisions on appropriate steps in order to help the department's understanding of the situation.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Goodman
Director-General – Safer and Greener Buildings