



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State, Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

8 March 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Fire safety: support for Burnt Oak residents in timber framed and timber/UPVC clad homes

I am writing to you to request your support to deal with a newly discovered cladding issue in Burnt Oak.

By way of background, as a result of an independent investigation commissioned by Barnet Council following a fire in a council owned property last summer which spread across the terrace, it was found that a large number of buildings in the borough no longer comply with current fire safety regulations.

Of the 586 homes identified by the investigation, 459 of these lie within the Hendon constituency, specifically Burnt Oak ward. As the Parliamentary candidate for Hendon, it is my duty to fight for these residents as they are suffering due to events that are not their fault.

It is expected that the works to address the fire safety issues will cost up to £23,000 per property. Needless to say, aside from the news that these properties have fire safety issues which must be resolved, large and unexpected bills for the remediation works will be a worry for freeholders and leaseholders. As you can appreciate, in a cost of living crisis, these costs are frightening for any family to receive.

It is important to note, that these homes were built by the council and council protected under the conservation area, which meant that residents were not permitted to change cladding. Residents were encouraged to keep building renovations with matching cladding.

I understand that the council is doing all that it can by fully funding the works for council owned homes and setting aside £13m to cover the upfront costs for freeholders and leaseholders, but I am worried this is not enough in the long term.

Therefore, I am requesting for the recognition of this issue by the Secretary of State and the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities and to seek clarity on what support is available to support residents with these costs, and to potentially secure grants to better support residents.

Thank you in advance for your support for the residents of Burnt Oak in particular who are going to be affected by this issue and are apprehensive about their futures.

Yours sincerely,

Ameet Jogia MBE
Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Hendon