



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**

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Tim
Via Email

Date: **21 November 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 3491555

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 21 September 2017 and is set out in an annex to this letter. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We can confirm that information within scope of your request is held by the Department.

(1) Confirm that the "no buildings known" for Category 1 refers to both private and 'public' housing.

This is correct but only for residential blocks over 18m tall.

(3) If the sum of the numbers is not the same as the 173 social housing buildings, 89 private residential buildings and 85 that have failed and 4 that have passed mentioned in Sajid Javid's statement on 5 September 2017, please provide an explanation of the differences.

The latest numbers (published in the Secretary of State's letter to the select committee) are 274 buildings with ACM cladding, 262 of which have cladding systems that failed the large scale test. Any differences with previous numbers are likely to be the result of further inspections.

(2) Provide the numbers of Local Authority or Housing Association owned or managed buildings that have each type of insulation with Category 2 ACM cladding.

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act as it relates to the formulation and development of government policy.

Section 35 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours our release of this material.

The Department recognises the general public interest in Building Regulations policy at this time. We have published frequent updates on the Department's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/grenfell-tower>

Updates specifically on the Building Safety Programme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-safety-programme>.

The Department intends to continue providing these updates at appropriate times and in appropriate levels of detail.

However, we believe disclosure of the information you have requested without the wider context is premature and would be likely to undermine any conclusions which may emerge.

Therefore I have decided, on balance, that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this time.

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
1st Floor NW, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully

DCLG FOI Team
Annex

On your Grenfell Tower website, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/grenfell-tower>, you refer to a number of announcements about the results of the large-scale tests you have conducted following the Grenfell Tower fire.

The announcements for the polyethylene core (Category 3) tests give the number of Local Authority or Housing Association buildings that are known to have this type of construction (47 and 90 for the two types of insulation), in addition to the total numbers of buildings known (82 and 111 respectively).

For the mineral core (Category 1) tests, you say no buildings are known to have this construction, and I assume that means neither private nor LA or HA have this construction.

However, for the fire-retardant core (Category 2) you only provide the total number of buildings known to have this construction (13, 22 and 13 for the three types of insulation).

Would you please:

(1) Confirm that the "no buildings known" for Category 1 refers to both private and 'public' housing.

(2) Provide the numbers of Local Authority or Housing Association owned or managed buildings that have each type of insulation with Category 2 ACM cladding.

(3) If the sum of the numbers is not the same as the 173 social housing buildings, 89 private residential buildings and 85 that have failed and 4 that have passed mentioned in Sajid Javid's statement on 5 September 2017, please provide an explanation of the differences.