

Reference: 585936

Date: 7 April 2020

Katy Preen

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[www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Dear Katy Preen,

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Your request for information was received by us on 6 March 2020, regarding

1. How many high-rise residential buildings (above 18m) that you inspected within Greater Manchester had some sort of metal-composite cladding system (e.g. ACM)?

Please break down your answer as follows:

- a) Those with a mineral core
- b) Those with a polymer core
- c) Other (please give details)

2. How many other 'at risk' buildings (below 18m and/or non-residential) that you identified during these inspections had a metal-composite cladding system? Please break down your answer as follows:

- d) Those with a mineral core
- e) Those with a polymer core
- f) Other (please give details)

3. How many high-rise residential buildings (above 18m) that you inspected within Greater Manchester had some sort of high-density-laminate / high-pressure laminate cladding system?

4. How many other 'at risk' buildings (below 18m and/or non-residential) that you identified during these inspections had some sort of high-density-laminate / high-pressure laminate cladding system?

### **GMCA Response**

I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Thank you for providing clarification of the meaning of 'high risk residential building' within your request. This definition was used as part of the Government's consultation exercise in 2019 on proposed building safety reforms 'Building a Safer Future'. That definition encompasses a wide range of building types and occupancies that does correlate with the FSEC codes currently used to stratify buildings or the premises definitions used by GMFRS or the address based classification within the land and property gazetteer.

Inspections under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are generally undertaken in line with the GMFRS risk based inspection programme, or are intelligence led or as a result of a complaint. Following the fire at Grenfell Tower all high rise residential buildings were inspected and recording mechanisms amended to capture information about the external wall system which can be reported on. These fields are currently utilised for high rise residential buildings only and do not form part of all premises records as this information is not routinely recorded.

The information provided below relates to high rise residential buildings.

1. GMFRS inspected all high rise buildings in 2017 and has continued to work with housing providers and managing agents to ensure the risk of external fire spread was identified and assessed. The premises information system used by GMFRS was amended to enable this information to be recorded in summary form for high rise buildings. Detailed information about the products used in external wall systems is contained in detailed technical specification data sheets and / or reports undertaken by a 'competent' person commissioned by the responsible person and provided to GMFRS. The summary information utilizes broad categories of product types for example 'ACM' but not the product specification. To provide this information would require detailed interrogation of reports for a number of premises and would exceed the time and cost threshold for FOI requests. In Greater Manchester 64 high rise residential buildings are known to have had cladding that failed the ACM tests provided by MHCLG through BRE (most of which were undertaken in 2017) and the majority of these have now been remediated.

2. Not held, buildings under 18 metres were not included within the high rise inspection programme and therefore this information is not recorded at summary level at this time

3. It is not possible to provide this information from summary level data as many premises have a combination of cladding types and therefore to provide this information would require detailed interrogation of reports for a number of premises and would exceed the time and cost threshold for FOI requests.

As of the 10/02/20 there were 57 buildings in Greater Manchester with 'interim measures' to support a change to the evacuation strategy as a result of issues other than ACM

- The main risks identified across these 57 buildings include;

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

- High Pressure Laminate cladding
- Wooden cladding systems
- Combustible insulation materials
- Wooden balconies that may lead to fire spread
- Lack of cavity barriers – intended to prevent the spread of fire
- Lack of adequate compartmentation between apartments and throughout the building
- Unprotected steelwork which forms the structural frame of the building

4. Not held, buildings under 18 metres were not included within the high rise inspection programme and therefore this information is not recorded at summary level at this time

If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us, quoting your reference number: 585936

If you are not satisfied with this response you may ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

*Foi.officer@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk*

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

*Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF*

If you need further clarification with regards to Freedom of Information you can go to the Information Commissioners website [www.ICO.org.uk](http://www.ICO.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Zach White

Information Governance Officer

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