

mhs
homes group

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www.mhs.org.uk

Kelly Tolhurst MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

5 July 2017

Dear Kelly,

Re: Fire Safety Measures

Thank you for your letter of 23rd June concerning fire safety in our high rise blocks in Medway.

As you aware, mhs homes has four tower blocks in Medway. Fortunately, none of these properties have the Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding associated with the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. All of our tower blocks are as per original construction and are designed to compartmentalise any fire within each flat. Wall insulation has been installed within the brick/block cavity wall panels at Melville Court since construction but this has been done in such a way as to ensure that the integrity of the fire safety compartmentation has been maintained. Inspections of all four tower blocks were carried out today by Fire Protection Association and these inspections confirmed that effective compartmentation is in place.

The Kent Fire & Rescue Service have visited these blocks in the last two weeks to provide individual home safety fire checks for residents and to check the overall fire safety measures within each block. The Fire & Rescue Service identified a small number of items that required repair or improvement (e.g. replacement of some overhead door closures, removal of rubbish placed by residents etc) and management plans will be agreed with the Fire & Rescue Service to ensure that these works are completed with due urgency.

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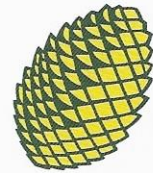
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Registered Name:
mhs homes limited

Registered Office:
**Broadside, Leviathan Way,
Chatham, Kent ME4 4LL**

Registered Company: **10704997**

Place of Registration: **England**



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The DCLG wrote to all Chief Executive's of local authorities and housing associations on 30th June to update on the ACM cladding checking and testing programme that has been set up and is now underway, and the wider steps that are being taken to ensure safety in all relevant buildings, in the light of the early test results. The DCLG have set up an expert panel to advise on other urgent steps that should be taken to improve fire safety and will be issuing more advice imminently to clarify further steps landlords could take to inform their decisions on the cladding systems they have in place, and on checking insulation and other components of typical wall construction. We will therefore need to consider any further advice that is issued by the Government in this regard.

I will keep you updated on any material developments or issues. In the meantime, if you have any further queries on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Hook
Chief Executive



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