



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Ms Helen Hayes MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450
Email: sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Our Ref:3658985

26 FEB 2018

D - Helen

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2018, on behalf of your constituent Mr Simon Wilks of Flat 7, Norman Court, Lordship Lane, London about action taken by the Government in response to the recommendations made by the Assistant Deputy Coroner following the Lakanal House fire in 2009.

A note setting out the action taken by the Government in response to the recommendations was placed in the Library of the House on 22 June 2017.

Mr Wilks asked whether new research was undertaken on Approved Document B. This research was published in February 2017 and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/usability-research-building-regulations-approved-documents-b-and-m>

The research confirmed the value of Approved Document B, recommended how Approved Documents could be better presented and informed development of a new style guide for Approved Documents.

It had been intended that this would form the basis for the publication of a revised version of Approved Document B in 2016/17 but this work has taken longer to complete. My officials are working closely with experts to complete the work: we expect to consult later this year on a clarified version of Approved Document B, as well as on revision to Approved Document B to cover use of assessments in lieu of testing (also known as 'desktop studies') of external wall insulation systems.

In addition to this work, the Government has set up a Building Safety Programme to ensure that people living in high-rise buildings are safe from the risk of fire, has published a range of advice for building owners on the fire safety of cladding and insulation materials and is helping building owners check, test and act where fire safety concerns have been identified.

Please thank Mr Wilks for raising this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Javid', written over a large, faint watermark of the number '12'.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP