

17 May 2018

**Statement in response to the publication of the Independent Review of
Building Regulations and Fire Safety**

In light of the Grenfell tragedy a thorough review of the building regulatory framework and recommendations for its reform, is a vital first step in addressing weakness in building practices and to ensure public confidence.

The fire safety of buildings requires a holistic approach that considers not just the materials used, but also their proper installation on site, and how they interact with one another in practice. The Review's emphasis on greater levels of oversight and stricter sanctions for those found to contravene regulations is an important part of the improvement in standards that is required. The proposed new Joint Competent Authority (JCA) seems a very sensible proposal to ensure better management and coordination on fire safety risks.

A holistic approach also requires that as well as insulation and cladding systems, due consideration is given to all the elements which combine to ensure that a building is safe; including the flammability of a building's contents, the installation of sprinkler systems and adequate provision of fire doors and escape routes from the building.

We are committed to working with all parties in the industry to ensure that the lessons from Grenfell are acted upon to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again.

While we will continue to consider the potential impact of the report's recommendations, it is clear that Dame Hackitt's independent review of building regulations has been thorough. EPFA believes the industry should now support the report and work together to realise the route forward it recommends.

ENDS

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