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26 February 2025

Dear Convener

UK Government Response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report

Further to the publication of the UK Government Response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report, published earlier today, I am writing to set out the action that the Scottish Government is taking to respond to the inquiry's Phase 2 report.

As you will be aware, the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, published their Phase 2 report on 04 September 2024, formally concluding the Inquiry. The report considers the underlying causes of the tragedy and makes some 58 substantive recommendations directed at the UK Government and various other institutions, in relation to the regulation of building standards and construction product standards (including the testing and assurance of construction products) and the adequacy of those regulatory regimes. The inquiry further made observations about the adequacy of the response of central and local government and the fire service to the fire, and makes several recommendations designed to improve the capability and effectiveness of planning for and the operational response to a future resilience event of this kind.

Whilst the inquiry's recommendations are not directed to the Scottish Government, around 40 of the recommendations relate to devolved responsibilities, chiefly in connection with building standards and fire safety. The Scottish Government is committed to taking further action, where it is necessary, to strengthen our approach to the safety of the built environment in Scotland and to build upon the action we have taken already in response to the Phase 1 Report. Further, we are committed to working with governments across the UK to instil progressive and lasting reform to transform the culture around building and construction, in keeping with the spirit and purpose of the inquiry's recommendations.

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The Scottish Government response to the inquiry is being led by a Ministerial Working Group that I chair; the Minister for Victims and Community Safety, who holds policy responsibility for fire, is also a member of the group. The group comprises policy officials, key stakeholders, and external experts. It has met regularly since September and will shortly conclude its work.

I plan to publish the Scottish Government Response on Tuesday 25 March 2025 and the Minister for Parliamentary Business intends to bring proposals to the Parliamentary Bureau seeking agreement to a Ministerial statement to coincide with publication. Further to publication of the UK Government's inquiry response today, it is important that the Ministerial Working Group is given the opportunity to consider the implications of the reform proposals that have been set out, including the implications for, and potential interactions with, areas of devolved responsibility. You will note in particular that the UK Government has today published a Green Paper on Construction Products. We will carefully consider the proposals, particularly in relation to product testing, product evaluation and information provision, assess their implications for Scotland, and work with the UK Government to deliver the necessary reform.

I am mindful our response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the Committee's interest in progress with cladding remediation are closely related. As you will be aware we have committed to publishing a Plan of Action for Cladding Remediation by the end of March, setting out how and when we will deliver the strategic priorities set out in my [statement of 6 January](#). This seeks to build on progress made through commencement of the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Act 2024, and the introduction of the statutory Single Building Assessment to support identification and remediation. I intend to publish this Plan of Action on 25 March, alongside our response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

I hope that this update is helpful to the Committee, I would be happy to provide any further information which may be of use.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MCLENNAN
MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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