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25 March 2025

Dear Convener

PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY PHASE 2 REPORT AND A PLAN OF ACTION ON CLADDING REMEDIATION.

I am writing to provide an update on the Scottish Government's response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report, as committed in our previous correspondence dated 25th February 2025.

Following the UK Government's publication of their response to the Phase 2 Report on 26th February 2025, we have today published the Scottish Government's own formal response to the report. Our response accepts all the Inquiry's recommendations, in principle, insofar as they apply in Scotland and sets out how we will address each recommendation that falls within devolved competence. I have attached a copy for your convenience.

As set out in my statement to Parliament, we will take forward a coherent and structured programme of reform activity designed to increase the safety of, and confidence in, Scotland's built environment.

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The key components of the Scottish Government Response to the Inquiry include a commitment to strengthen the building standards system, by further consulting on the proposal for the creation of the new role of a Compliance Plan Manager, to ensure that the duties imposed on the "relevant person" in the construction of high-risk buildings are being robustly managed. We will also further consult on changes to existing building standards enforcement powers and sanctions and review the fire safety standards and guidance in the Building Standards Technical Handbooks. We will then carefully review the consultation responses and consider the need for legislation, if necessary to implement the proposed reforms. Further, we will consult on the introduction of mandatory periodic fire risk assessments in specified multi-occupancy residential buildings, to reduce the risk of fires occurring and encourage building owners to effectively maintain buildings to support effective containment, suppression and egress where fires occur.

In the immediate term we will undertake a further fire risk awareness campaign in 2025 to ensure that residents and homeowners remain aware of, and attentive to, the measures they can take to reduce fire risk in their homes and keep themselves safe. This includes the practical measures that vulnerable persons can undertake to stay safe.

We will work proactively with the broadest range of actors across Scotland, with the UK Government and with the other Devolved Administrations in areas of continuing shared interest, to deliver reform of construction products safety and improvements in the regulation of construction industry professionals' competence.

In addition to providing a thorough response to the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, I have published a renewed **Plan of Action on Cladding Remediation**.

This is our first Plan of Action since the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Act 2024 came into effect on 6 January 2025. It sets out a number of the key actions we are taking, who we are working with, and how we plan to drive a collective national effort on cladding in Scotland with a real increase in pace and breadth of action.

This plan has been carefully developed to tackle the ongoing safety and financial challenges associated with defective cladding systems on high-rise residential buildings across

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Scotland. The 'Plan of Action' document provides a strategic approach to the identification of affected buildings, the prioritisation of remediation works, financial assistance to affected homeowners, and a clear timeline for action. The goal is to ensure that the safety of residents is protected, while providing clarity and support to those impacted by these issues.

The cornerstone of the plan is the launch of a new Open Call allowing property owners or their representatives to notify us of their concerns about cladding. Where buildings meet specified criteria, we will fund a Single Building Assessment. This offer is made on a tenure neutral basis and is designed to rapidly increase the rate and pace of assessment taking place across Scotland. We have made £10m available immediately to cover the cost of assessments. In the first instance the offer will be available for 6 months, we will keep the terms of the open call under review.

This scheme will then be extended to include government support for mitigation and remediation works. This is in addition to our existing government-led remediation of buildings previously identified via the Cladding Remediation Pilot Programme.

Further, this is in addition to our work with Developers to deliver developer led assessment and remediation under the Developer Remediation Contract.

Further actions in the plan include our ongoing work with Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to proactively identify buildings at elevated risk and to provide assurance, as necessary, that said risks have been appropriately addressed.

Recognising the significant importance of increasing the pace of activity, this Plan of Action will be updated and published on a quarterly basis, The next version of this plan will be published by the end of June 2025.

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

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Yours sincerely,

PAUL MCLENNAN
MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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