



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

The professional voice of the
UK Fire & Rescue Service

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15th June 2020

Dear Chief,

Fire Protection Board – Building Risk Review Programme

I am writing to outline the next steps of the Fire Protection Board's Building Risk Review (BRR) Programme following the successful completion of the first exercise earlier this year. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) and their staff who took part in the first exercise covering ACM clad high rise residential buildings in England.

As part of FRSs' ongoing national work to understand and help reduce the risk in high rise residential buildings, the BRR programme is aimed at meeting the ambition set out by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in Parliament on 5th September 2019 to 'significantly increase the pace of inspection activity across high rise residential and other high risk buildings'¹ and is supported by the allocation of government funding² to ensure all high rise buildings have been inspected or reviewed by the end of 2021.

In order to meet the Secretary of State's commitment and the December 2021 deadline, the Board have agreed that FRSs will be able to use a combination of triage, inspections, and desktop audits to provide information on a minimum data set agreed by the Board on the following buildings in scope:

High rise residential buildings 18m and above in height which were not already covered as part of the first BRR exercise.

The Board recognise that the building owner and/or Responsible Person/s has ultimate accountability for managing fire safety measures for buildings. The objective of the BRR Programme is to demonstrate to the Secretary of State that FRSs are aware of the various elements impacting fire safety in high rise residential buildings and will help identify actions which need to be taken by the Responsible Person/s to rectify any issues. The Board also acknowledges that the response you provide will be a snapshot in time and based on

¹ [Address to Parliament by Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, regarding Building Safety \(5th Sept 2019\)](#)

² [Letter from the Prime Minister to the Chair of the Public Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower Fire \(2nd June 2020\)](#)

information FRS officers can reasonably obtain on the buildings. Should you raise concerns on any buildings beyond your normal enforcement practises, the Board will work with you and your Fire and Rescue Authority to advise on the appropriate steps.

You have also received a letter regarding the additional funding allocated to your FRS for the BRR Programme through the Fire Protection Board grant. The disaggregation of financing has been based on a floor of £60,000 per FRS plus funding based on Home Office analysis of the proportion of buildings in scope within your FRS's jurisdiction. Conditions have been attached to this funding requiring the money to be targeted at functions to support the completion of the BRR Programme and FRSs will be expected to provide monthly reporting on progress in processing your building stock back to the Board, which will collate reports for the Minister.

Included in the appendices to this letter is a spreadsheet which includes a list of the buildings in scope of the Programme within your FRS's area according to data held by MHCLG, along with columns for entering the information being requested by the Board. Further information on completing responses can be found in the technical guidance appended to this letter. Although we are beginning this Programme with the best information currently available to us, we are aware that issues with the data are likely to be encountered. For this reason, if your FRS is aware of additional buildings in scope, or believe buildings on your list are not in scope, instructions have been provided in the technical guidance for how to report these. This will enable reporting of data discrepancies to inform regular reviews against targets.

As the deadline for complete returns to this Programme is the end of December 2021, there will be time for the Board to adapt and improve the process over time, if required, in order to ensure a streamlined process for FRSs and a smooth data pathway for building information. This data will then be used to inform the new Building Safety Regulator when it is fully operational and help determine which buildings need to be prioritised for a 'safety case' under the new building safety regime. Although the end date is December 2021, FRSs should not wait to complete the Programme and can provide data as soon as you start the process.

It should also be noted that, if you believe it would be beneficial for your FRS to collect data in addition to the information being requested by the Board as part of the BRR Programme in order to inform your own Risk Based Inspection Programmes (RBIP) and Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) records, then please use this opportunity to do so. As we move forward with this work and the Government's Building Safety Programme continues to gather momentum, there will be a need to categorise high rise residential buildings into different risk levels. The BRR will feed into that risk stratification and further information on how this will work will be provided soon.

I hope this letter, combined with the technical guidance attached, provides you with sufficient information about the BRR Programme and we look forward to working with you further on making buildings safer. If you have any questions, I am of course happy to discuss these with you further and if you have any issues concerning the BRR process please contact BuildingRiskReview@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk.

I am copying this letter to the Head of your Protection Department and a copy of this letter and the associated guidance documents has also been sent to your relevant governance body as requested by the LGA, who are represented on the Fire Protection Board.

Yours sincerely,



Roy Wilsher

**Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council
Chair of the Fire Protection Board**

Appendix Index:

- A. Building Risk Review – Technical Guidance*
- B. Building Risk Review – Reporting Notes*
- C. Building Risk Review – Response Spreadsheet*