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Communities and
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Rt Hon John Healey MP
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The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
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Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 20 June on the tragic Grenfell Tower fire and the concerns previously raised by the All Party Parliamentary Fire Safety and Rescue Group.

There will be a full statement to Parliament on the Government's response to the fire and related issues later today. Our immediate priorities have been to support the victims' families and survivors of the fire and other local residents affected, and to put in place an urgent process so that Local Authorities and Housing Associations carry out assessments of the high rise buildings which they are responsible for which have external cladding, and where Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) may have been used as a cladding material. As you will understand our first priority is public safety.

You refer to correspondence which the All Party Parliamentary Group had with Conservative and Liberal Democrat ministers in this Department. I expect all correspondence and relevant files to be released to the Inquiry. As we have made clear the inquiry will leave no stone unturned. If there are questions for government we will answer them, but we must let this Inquiry do its work, rather than try to make political capital out of this tragic situation.

You also mentioned the response to rule 43 letters from the Coroners in relation to the Shirley Towers and Lakanal House fires. For the benefit of colleagues I will place a note in the Library of the House setting out the action the then government took in response. Whilst no significant amends have been made to the Approved Document B (the guidance relating to fire regulations) which was put in place before 2010, the

Government's position was made clear in the then SOS's response to the coroner's report: the simplification requested by the coroner was made part of a broader simplification of building regulations expected to be published in 2016/17.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP