Further to my and my Ministerial colleagues’ appearance at the Communities and Local Government Select Committee evidence session on 11 October, I would like to clarify three pieces of information I gave regarding the response to the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, and the Building Safety Programme that was subsequently established, to ensure the Committee have a full and up-to-date account.

As I am sure you will appreciate, the data we receive from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is continually changing as residents make difficult decisions about their future. I told the Committee that 152 households from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk remained in hotels. That figure was, in fact, slightly out of date. More recent data from the Council as of 10 October says there were 149 households from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk in hotels.

Turning to the work of the wider Building Safety Programme, the latest figures are that 274 residential and public buildings over 18m in England have confirmed Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding. Of those, 262 have ACM cladding systems that the Independent Expert Advisory Panel advises are unlikely to meet current Building Regulations guidance and therefore present fire hazards on buildings over 18m. Of those buildings, 161 are social housing (down from 165 as a result of further inspections). The Government is following up with the owners of each of the affected buildings to ensure that interim measures are in place to ensure the safety of residents, and that there is a plan for remediation.

Finally, I mentioned the additional funding that local authorities will be receiving following the New Burdens Assessment that has been carried out by my Department. I
would like to be clear that this funding is specifically related to the private sector data collection that local authorities have been asked to carry out, rather than to take any enforcement action as part of their duties under the Housing Act 2004. It is also not intended to cover any necessary remediation work, which is the responsibility of building owners.

I hope you and your fellow Committee members find this information helpful. I have also deposited a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP