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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

06 June 2019

Dear Yvette

Call for Evidence on the Fire Safety Order 2005

I am writing to inform you that today the Home Office has launched a Call for Evidence on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 – the Fire Safety Order – In England.

The Call for Evidence complements the Government's consultation, [*Building a safer future: Proposals for reform of the building safety regulatory system*](#). The consultation makes proposals for reform in the building safety regulatory system, led by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The consultation outlines how the Government proposes to take forward meaningful legislative reform and is seeking views on five areas of the new regime. Both the consultation and Call for Evidence are important steps in the Government's programme of work to reform the building regulations and fire safety system, making sure that people are safe, and feel safe, now and in the future.

The Call for Evidence is the first part of a process to ensure that the Fire Safety Order is fit for purpose for all buildings it regulates. It seeks views on the scope and objectives of the Order and its general application. Aligning with the Government's consultation, it also seeks views on the issues specific to the common parts of multi-occupied residential buildings and whether relevant aspects of the proposed reforms for multi-occupied residential buildings relating to fire safety should be applied to 'higher risk workplace buildings' when occupied.

It is targeted at those who have statutory responsibilities under the Fire Safety Order or are otherwise affected by it. This includes enforcing authorities under the Fire Safety Order as well as those responsible for the safety of buildings covered by the Fire Safety Order and those working within them.

The responses to the Call for Evidence will help to update the evidence base on how the Fire Safety Order is complied with and enforced. This will help us identify and assess any changes that may be needed and how they may best be achieved through amending the Order and/or supporting guidance.

I am absolutely committed to ensuring high and proportionate standards of fire safety in all buildings covered by the Fire Safety Order.

Please find attached the Call for Evidence and supporting annexes.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter, the Call for Evidence and the accompanying annexes to be placed in both House Libraries today. This letter has also been copied to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and 'H'.

RT HON NICK HURD MP
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service