

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

## Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 0000 Fax: 0207 035 0018 www.gov.uk/mhclg

15 January 2021

Dear responsible entity,

You may be aware of recent press reports suggesting that leaseholders are being asked to sign unduly restrictive confidentiality clauses when applying for government funding for the removal of unsafe cladding on high rise residential buildings. A standard confidentiality clause is customary in contracts to protect both parties.

However, we thought it would be helpful to make clear to you, as a signatory of a pre-tender support funding agreement relating to cladding remediation, that both MHCLG and the GLA are clear that there is nothing in the agreements which MHCLG or the GLA has signed with you which curtails the freedom of applicants, nor of individual leaseholders, to comment on building safety matters.

Any clauses in the agreement relating to contact with the media apply solely to the entity receiving the funding. They are designed to ensure that applicants contact our delivery partners in the first instance with any queries about the remediation project or the funding agreement, with the aim of having the most constructive working relationship so that the Government's provision of funding will make buildings safe for residents as swiftly as practicable.

The agreement does not bind individual leaseholders who remain free to comment publicly or otherwise on the nature of the remediation works both in their building and elsewhere.

We are keen to make sure that leaseholders know that they are not subject to these contractual provisions, and would be grateful if you could make this clear to the leaseholders in your building.

Thank you again for your application to the Private Sector ACM Cladding Remediation Fund.

The Building Safety Programme