

12 December 2019

Kevin Stewart MSP  
Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning T4.44  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Sent by email to Kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot

Dear Minister

I was very encouraged to read the full and detailed response you gave to [Name Redacted] at the beginning of December, following his questions to the Scottish Government about its assessment of BS 8414 fire tests.

As you will know this follows the recent session of the Local Government and Communities Committee on Building Regulations and Fire Safety in Scotland, at which, inter alia, [Name and position Redacted], of UCL Department Geomatic and Environmental Engineering provided a robust and thorough insight into the complexities of fire safety in buildings and the importance of both testing and the interpretation and understanding of test results.

With that in mind I would like to share with you two recent reports; *'BS 8414 Review'* from Tenos International Fire Engineering Consultants and *'Reconstruction of Grenfell Tower fire. Part 3 – Numerical simulation of the Grenfell Tower disaster. Contribution to the understanding of the fire propagation and behaviour during the vertical fire spread'* published by Efectis.

The Tenos report ([available on this link](#)) explains why BS 8414 is an internationally recognised test for measuring fire spread and importantly shows it has a higher fire load than similar international large-scale cladding tests such as NFPA 285.

The research paper by Efectis ([available on this link](#)) analyses via computational modelling the Grenfell Tower façade and its vertical fire spread with results that highlight very clearly the need to evaluate facades thoroughly as whole systems in appropriate scale tests.

I hope both these reports prove to be useful to you in any future considerations by the Scottish Government, of fire safety in high rise buildings.

We sent the Tenos report to the LGC Committee in advance of its session, along with additional information outlining our views and have subsequently been invited to meet the Convener in Edinburgh, to discuss issues relevant to these investigations. We would therefore also welcome the opportunity to meet you on the same day, to discuss these reports' findings along with a wider debate about your approach to fire safety, if you think this would be of value. Once the date has been agreed with the Convener I will let you know to see if this fits with your schedule.

## **INSULATION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

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Our members fully support all the recommendations of Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations following the Grenfell tragedy in June 2017 and we believe that BS 8414 provides the best way of testing cladding systems to ensure they achieve the outcome of controlling fire spread.

For your information, the IMA is the trade body for all the PIR and PUR insulation industry in the UK and Ireland. Membership comprises all the major companies in the industry, including manufacturers of finished PIR and PUR insulation products, suppliers of the various raw materials and associated services.

Yours sincerely

**[signature, name and position redacted]**

Cc: [Name Redacted] [Name Redacted]@scot.gov  
Building Regulations Team (buildingstandards@gov.scot)

***Reports referred to:***

1. Report by Tenos 'BS 8414 Review', 2018  
(<https://insulationmanufacturers.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2018/09/Tenos-BS8414-Review.pdf>)
2. Report by Efectis 'Reconstruction of Grenfell Tower fire. Part 3 – Numerical simulation of the Grenfell Tower disaster. Contribution to the understanding of the fire propagation and behaviour during the vertical fire spread' (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/fam.2763>)