

Kevin Stewart MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000

E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

[Name Redacted]

[Position Redacted]

Kingspan Insulation UK & Ireland  
(via email)

12 March 2021

Dear [Name Redacted]

I have followed, with significant concern, the evidence presented by Kingspan staff to the Grenfell Inquiry. The actions of your company in placing products such as K15 insulation on the market lacked the honesty that we would expect from a major material supplier to the construction industry.

I am sure that I do not need to tell you of the stress and anxiety that fire safety issues are causing to building owners and residents across Scotland. Your failure to properly represent the performance of your products have exacerbated those concerns.

You have failed to properly declare the performance of your products, however, there is no detail on what measures Kingspan are taking to make parties who have specified and used misrepresented products in projects aware of the issue nor the likely consequences. There is, for example, no information that is helpful to parties who have specified such insulation products in projects other than that resulting from a BS8414 test.

I am greatly concerned that this situation has arisen in Scotland, it undermines our Building Standards system and the trust that the system places in the performance declared by manufacturers.

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I am aware that there has been correspondence between Kingspan and my officials with regards to the use of this product and the support that you should be providing to clients here. I would ask that you are completely open and transparent in assisting owners and managers in Scotland who have Kingspan products installed in their buildings.

I have asked my officials to work with Local Authority Building Standards Scotland on the issues arising from the withdrawal of your test reports and any associated assessment in lieu of tests. To assist in those deliberations please provide the following:

- Details of buildings where K15 insulation and other relevant products have been used in buildings in Scotland.
- What support is Kingspan providing or planning to provide to affected parties, including with remediation of affected buildings.
- How are you planning to disseminate full and complete information on the deficiencies in your product to affected parties.
- Who are you engaging with to facilitate action and can your communications strategy be shared or published.
- More clarity on the timeline of events, including the situation with the manufacturer, testing and certification of the cited products in the period before that notified.
- What changes were made to the K15 product around the time stated (2006) and what evidence is available of the actual performance under test for that product.
- Clarity on when the manufacturing process changed during the cited period and is there information on how this affects the declared performance.
- What changed in 2011 that resulted in the removal of the 'low risk' statement from your literature, and what information was provided in its stead.
- Why did it take a further six years to reclassify the product as 'medium risk' and what action did you take from 2011 to 2017.
- Will you publish a clear and complete statement on the performance of the affected products and its implications for common use situations as regards reaction to fire and risk arising from exposure to a source of combustion.

Can you contact the Head of Building Standards, Stephen Garvin, with regards to the above points at the earliest possible stage.

Kind regards



**KEVIN STEWART**

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