

## Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

**Petition Number:** [PE1719](#)

**Main Petitioner:** Rachel Gibson on behalf of tenants Gartcraigs Road, G43 1AA

**Subject:** Review of fire safety stay-put policy

Calls on the Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the current 'stay-put' policy as it applies to the fire strategy for existing multi-storey residential buildings.

### Background

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) provides advice to [residents of multi-storey flats](#) (generally considered to be buildings of six storeys and above) on what to do in the event of a fire. The SFRS advise residents to stay in their flat if a fire occurs in a communal area or other flat and only leave if they are affected by heat or smoke or are told to do so by the police or fire service. Different advice applies to residents if a fire occurs within their own flat.

The petitioner states in supporting information that:

“The stay-put policy is not applied UK wide, for instance, Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service advises tenants in high-rise buildings that if there is a fire in any flat they should ‘get out and stay out’”

The “stay put” advice was reiterated by the [National Fire Chiefs Council](#) in May 2018. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service [advice on fire safety in high rise flats](#) is the same as that issued by the SFRS.

### Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government established a ministerial working group on building and fire safety in June 2017. One of its key work streams was to review the fire safety regime and regulatory framework for multi storey flats. The final report on this topic was [published by the Scottish Government](#) in December 2018. One of the six recommendations in this report was the development of specific fire safety guidance for residents of multi storey flats in Scotland. The report states:

“This guidance would be taken forward in collaboration with SFRS and the Tenants and Residents Panel, utilising the various tenants and residents groups each member is a part of. It is important that the tone and level of the guidance is correct and it is therefore vital that those who live in high rise buildings are involved in the production of the guidance.”

The report indicates that this guidance should be complete by late 2019.

### **Scottish Parliament Action**

The Local Government and Communities Committee looked into issues around [building standards and fire safety](#) in mid to late 2017. While this work did not directly consider the “stay put” advice to residents of multi storey flats, it covered many related fire safety issues.

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8 May 2019

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