

PE1719/D

Scottish Government submission of 26 July 2019

Implementation of fire safety policies and procedures are an operational matter for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The 'Stay Put' principle is supported by the SFRS and is in line with the UK wide National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) advice which is regularly reviewed. The SFRS provide information and advice for residents of high rise buildings on fire prevention and what to do if there is a fire, available on the SFRS website at:

https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/332080/multi_storey_fire_safety.pdf
<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/multi-storey-flats.aspx>.

The NFCC 'Stay Put' position statement is available at:

<https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/Stay-Put-position>).

A Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on Building and Fire Safety was formed immediately following the Grenfell fire tragedy to oversee a review of building and fire safety regulatory frameworks, and other relevant matters, to help ensure that people are safe in Scotland's buildings, and to make any recommendations for improvement as required.

One of the work streams of the MWG was a Review of the Scottish Fire Safety Regime for Domestic High Rise Property. The final Review report is available at: www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-fire-safety-regime-final-review/. Whilst no major gaps in legislation were identified, there were a number of recommendations made to strengthen fire safety in high rise domestic buildings. One of the recommendations was to develop fire safety guidance aimed at those who live in high rise domestic buildings. A further recommendation was the introduction of Scottish fire safety guidance and risk assessments aimed at those responsible for high rise domestic buildings.

The recommendations have been accepted by the MWG and the Scottish Government has consulted on the information and guidance. The consultation can be accessed at: <https://consult.gov.scot/fire-and-rescue/fire-safety-consultation-2019/>.

Part 1 of the consultation seeks to understand the kinds of information people would find helpful in the guidance aimed at those who live in high rise domestic buildings, and how best to deliver this information. This includes a specific question on the 'Stay Put' policy, and whether more information on this in the guidance would be helpful. This will help to inform the information and reassurance that can be provided to those who live in high rise domestic buildings.

Part 3 of the consultation focuses on draft guidance regarding 'Fire safety in existing high rise domestic buildings' and contains information and guidance on the appropriate implementation of the 'Stay Put' policy. Those answering the consultation have the opportunity to provide feedback and comment on this to ensure that the understanding and application of stay put can be consistent across the country.

The public consultation closed on 17 July 2019, in addition, the Scottish Government also held engagement events with residents of high rise, council staff and housing associations. The views from the public consultation and engagement events will be used to improve and refine the proposed actions on strengthening fire safety in high rise domestic buildings.