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Local Authority Directors of Education

By email

24 June 2017

Dear colleagues

I am writing you in your capacity as Education Authorities, following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower in London. The Scottish Government's first priority has been to seek assurances about high rise domestic properties (over 18 metres), and we are very grateful for the work which Scottish local authorities have already done to enable us quickly to provide positive assurances to the public about their domestic properties. Given the paramount importance of health and safety we are now widening this process to seek assurances about school buildings.

You will be aware that concerns have been raised about the cladding material used at Grenfell Tower. In line with the information that is available so far about Grenfell Tower, we are seeking assurances about external cladding systems used in the school buildings for which you are responsible. In particular, we are asking whether any panels used in new build or refurbishment are made of a particular type of cladding made of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM). Further detail about ACM is provided in the Annex to this letter.

I would be grateful if you would reply to this letter as follows:

- by 5pm on Tuesday 27 June, confirm whether ACM has been used in cladding systems used on school buildings over 18 metres or 4 or more storeys in height. If any ACM has been used in such buildings please complete the attached template; and
- by 5pm on Thursday 13 July, confirm whether ACM has been used in cladding systems used on any school buildings (i.e. of any height). If any ACM has been used in such buildings please also complete the attached template.

Please submit your returns, and any requests for clarification to Andrew.Dailly@gov.scot

I greatly appreciate the continuing assistance from local authorities in enabling us to respond quickly to secure the assurance needed.

I am copying this letter to local authority Chief Executives.

JOHN SWINNEY

Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) is a type of flat panel that consists of two thin aluminium sheets bonded to a non-aluminium core, typically between 3 and 7mm thick. The panels can have a painted or metallic finish (eg copper or zinc effects).

Request 1

- By 5pm on Tuesday 27 June, please confirm whether ACM has been used in cladding systems used on your school buildings over 18 metres or 4 or more storeys in height. If any ACM has been used in such buildings please complete the template below.

Request 2

- By 5pm on Thursday 13 July, confirm whether ACM has been used in cladding systems used on any of your school buildings (ie of any height). If any ACM has been used in such buildings please also complete the attached template

If ACM is found in cladding systems used on schools, please complete and return the following template in line with the deadines above. One template should be completed for each building identified to have ACM in its cladding system.

Building name and location	
When was the application for the relevant building warrant <u>submitted</u> ?	
Does the school have a sprinkler system?	
Is the school building physically distanced from other buildings? If so by how much?	
Approximately what percentage of the total external wall area of the building is clad?	
What is the specific product type and class of ACM?	
Does the product used have a technical approval, eg British Board of Agreement?	