



## **CHC Safety update**

We have an SDG meeting in March, so we can come back to the white paper and maybe share some of views in breakout rooms.

### **Working group to consider White Paper response**

We will be reconvening the Fire Safety Working Group to consider a response to the Building Safety White Paper. I'll keep the SDG informed on this date, and if anyone wants to join they are more than welcome to.

### **PFAS**

We have been undertaking a review of PFAS with SWFRS, and PFAS reps should have received an invite to a meeting in early Feb which will be looking at this review and how we move forwards. We will be looking to update all members on this review so I'll keep you updated on that. Any questions/queries to Sarah.

### **Tenant engagement training**

Just to let you know that I am exploring an empowering resident engagement through culture change online training course which looks at how your organisations can prepare for a new regulatory framework, how you can ensure the resident voice is heard, and how you can contribute to the cultural change required to increase trust and confidence in the sector. It would be great if you could indicate in the chat box if this would be of interest? Also if there is anything specific that you would like the training to address let me know. And I'll keep the SDG updated on this.

### **Building Safety Fund**

Hopefully you have all seen by now that £10.5million funding has been made available for Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to fund High Rise Residential Building Remediation works to address fire and structural safety issues, for buildings 18metres and over.

The fund supports 4 areas, where applicants can apply for funding of any one or more categories. They include:

- a. Cladding –to ensure cladding meets current Building Regulations – especially for combustibility standards – and that it is correctly and safely installed.



- b. Compartmentation – ensuring that a fire which originates in a flat is contained until it can be extinguished, and before it can spread to other flats or common areas. This covers both the structural integrity of the walls and floors surrounding each flat, and the capability of front doors to resist the spread of fire.
- c. Fire Suppression Systems - an effective and comprehensive fire suppression system is a highly effective way to reduce the risk of death and injury from fire.
- d. Evacuation alert systems in properties where evacuation is an appropriate response to a fire.

Works must be started on site by 31 March 2021, and Works contracts which are signed prior to 15 December 2020 will not be eligible for funding.

The deadline for applications is 29 January 2021. If anyone hasn't received this information via email, please let me know.

#### **Repairs and Maintenance Level 4**

Hopefully you all received the letter we attached with the agenda from Ian Walters Welsh Government, regarding a clarification of routine repairs and adaptations during Alert Level 4.

It states that under the current regulations, although consideration should be given to whether works can be delayed until after level 4 restrictions are lifted, routine repairs and adaptations can continue.

Consideration on whether any works can be safely deferred should include the need and wellbeing of the person requiring the works, balanced with any risks of carrying out or deferring the works (e.g. if a hand rail is not fitted there is a risk of fall) as well as the length of time the works could reasonably be deferred for.

Working practices and procedures must be safe for staff and individuals and comply with all relevant legislation as well as Public Health and Government guidance. Work in someone's home should be carried out in accordance with guidance on working in other people homes

So the guidance really leaves interpretation up to individual landlords. It would be really good to hear your thoughts on this in the breakout session, and feedback on how you are interpreting this and if you have experienced any issues. If you feel more guidance is needed from the Welsh Government, please indicate that too.