

Janet Sharpe
Director of Housing
Housing and Neighbourhood Service
Sheffield City Council
Place
Sheffield Town Hall
SHEFFIELD
S1 2HH



Our ref JS/KF/JS846

20 July 2017

Dear Tenant/Resident

Fire safety in Hanover tower block 101-345 Exeter Drive

You will already know that one part of the external cladding on Hanover tower block failed the new fire test. We told you about this about three weeks ago.

I now want to tell you more about the external (rainscreen) cladding on this block and what we are doing about it.

The external (rainscreen) cladding fitted to Hanover Tower

The external cladding is 4mm Alucobond PE (Polyethylene).

The insulation behind the cladding panels, which is fixed to the original structure of the building, is 75mm Knauf Earthwool Rainscreen Slab. This is a mineral wool designed to keep the building warm and is often used within rainscreen cladding systems.

There is also a fire stop or cavity barrier within the rainscreen cladding and this is called Lamatherm, a specialist material designed help prevent fires spreading.

Testing of materials that have been fitted to the outside of Hanover Tower

We have tested all the materials fitted to the outside of the tower and this is what we found:

- 4mm Alucobond PE - samples of this material were sent to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) on 23 June 2017 and this failed a fire safety test.
- 75mm Knauf Earthwool Rainscreen Slab – a sample of this material was sent to Exova Warrington on 7 July 2017. The results of the test were received by the council on 14 July 2017 and confirmed that this material is classed as non-combustible and rated Euroclass A1 BS EN 13501-1.
- Lamatherm Slab – a sample of this material was sent to Exova Warrington on 7 July 2017. The results of the test were received by the council on 14 July and they confirmed that this material is classed as non-combustible and rated Euroclass A1 BS EN 13501-1

Removing the cladding from Hanover Tower

Once the test result confirmed the Alucobond PE had failed the BRE test we took a decision to take off this cladding material. The work to remove the cladding started on 27 June 2017. It was initially done by the council whilst we talked with a contractor called Alumet who are cladding specialists for both removal and installation. Alumet took over the Alucobond removal from the Repairs and Maintenance Service on 10 July 2017.

Based on advice from the manufacturer of the insulation (Knauf) and our own Health and Safety assessment, we are going to remove the mineral wool insulation. We plan to start this work on 24 July 2017. We think that it will be damaged by wind and rain now it is exposed to the weather and could potentially blow off the building in high winds.

Timescale for removal of the cladding and the insulation on Hanover Tower

We are aiming for the Alucobond panels and the insulation to be removed by end August 2017. Progress to complete the works will depend on the weather. At the moment our contractors are making good progress in removing the Alucobond cladding.

We are working closely with the contractor to ensure the removal is carried out safely and at the minimum of inconvenience to residents of the block and the surrounding area.

Replacing the cladding on Hanover Tower

Hanover Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) have committed to working with the council on your behalf to look at options for replacing the cladding. We hope to create a project group where the views of residents will be taken into account as we start to look to replacing the cladding.

At the moment we cannot say when the external cladding will be fully replaced, we hope it will be in 2018 but we want to consult with you properly and make sure we find a solution that suits the building and you, the residents.

Get involved or ask a question

If you have any further questions or would like to be part of the project group looking at replacing the cladding you can email: housingfiresafety@sheffield.gov.uk

You can find out the latest fire safety information on our website:

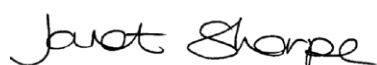
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/council-housing/fire-safety>

Finally you can also sign up for all our latest housing news via email by logging on to:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/utilities/footer-links/register-for-alerts>

As always we will try to give you as much information as possible about what we are doing to your tower block. Thank you for your patience whilst we carry out this work to your block.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Sharpe
Director of Housing
Housing and Neighbourhood Service