

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



Our ref JS/KF/JH

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

Dear Tenant/Resident

### **Fire safety – Tower Blocks at Leverton, Netherthorpe, Uppertorpe, Callow**

You will already know a couple of weeks after the Grenfell fire we took samples of the rain screen cladding from all tower blocks in the city and that one sample from the Hanover tower block failed the new fire test, this block had a composite aluminium panel.

All other blocks in the city were visually identified as having a solid aluminium panel. The government indicated that they would not be asking landlords to send these panels for testing. We agreed however we would have the samples from every block tested independently. To provide further transparency the insulation material has also been analysed.

I now want to tell you more about the results of these independent tests.

### **Testing of the metal rainscreen cladding**

We asked Sheffield University Material Science Department to undertake this test. The results were received on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017. The university used an X-ray diffraction test and the data provided to us shows that **all panel samples** at Leverton, Uppertorpe, Netherthorpe and Callow were made from aluminium (Al) alloy. Every block has given a test result of at least 97.84% or above of aluminium content. The other 2% being made up of other metals manganese (Mn), iron (Fe) and silicon (Si). The assessment by the university is the aluminium alloys used **are not combustible**.

### **Testing of the Insulation**

Mineral wool insulation materials from all 4 estates indicated above were also sent for testing to Exova Warrington.

The mineral wool wall insulation used on the blocks was as follows:

Callow – Rockwool DuoSlab

Leverton – Knauf Earthwool Rainscreen Slab and Lamatherm

Uppertorpe and Netherthorpe – Mineral Wool (manufacturer unknown)

The results are as follows:

- Rockwool – samples 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.
- 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.
- Mineral Wool Insulation (Wall insulation) – samples 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 (Fire stopping / Cavity Barrier) – 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

These test results match with all previous information we have shared with you about your blocks fire safety and I do hope that this provides the reassurance that has been sought. A copy of the letter from Sheffield University has been forwarded to all the Tenants and Residents Associations that have tower blocks and a copy of the letter can be obtained by emailing [housingfiresafety@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:housingfiresafety@sheffield.gov.uk).

### **Get involved or ask a question**

If you have any further questions you can email: [housingfiresafety@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:housingfiresafety@sheffield.gov.uk)

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

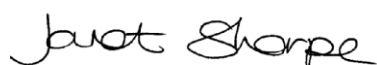
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/council-housing/fire-safety>

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 safety of your tower block. Thank you for your patience in waiting for these results.

Yours sincerely,



**Janet Sharpe**  
**Director of Housing**  
**Housing and Neighbourhood Service**