



Home Office

Lord Greenhalgh
Minister of State for Building Safety,
Fire and Communities at
Ministry of Housing, Communities &
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To: Suzanne McCarthy

BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Suzanne,

I welcomed our introductory meeting and our discussion on the challenges of developing standards. I was pleased to hear that you have established the strategic direction of the FSB, and the means by which standard development should be taking place. We have a shared ambition for there to be clear baseline standards for fire and rescue services which establish what exactly 'good looks like'.

I have now closely reviewed your Activity Plan and delivery timetable. It is reassuring to see that some key standards will be signed off and begin implementation this year. One of my key priorities is to ensure that we learn the lessons from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, which includes improving standards. I was particularly encouraged to see focus and attention being afforded to key areas of reform, such as leadership, ethics, protection and community risk. It is important that the first standards - which have will have taken some considerable time to develop - address these critical areas for improvement.

I would welcome a further detailed update on the progress being made against your activity framework and delivery plan later in the year. I know my officials are on hand to ensure that output from the FSB can progress at greater pace, and I would urge you to ensure that you are flagging any risks or issues with delivery early on and

continuing to engage my team in the key underpinning programmes. I look forward to working with you to deliver real change in this crucial area of fire reform.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Greenhalgh

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