



Home Office

Fire Safety Reform

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Overview

- Quick Recap
- The Fire Safety Act
- The Building Safety Bill
- The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022
- Evacuation Research
- Fire Prevention

Fire Safety Reform – Quick Recap

- We are delivering wide ranging reforms to strengthen fire safety in all regulated premises where people live, stay or work and respond to key Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations.
- The Fire Safety Act clarifies the application of the Fire Safety Order (FSO) to the structure, external walls and flat entrance doors in buildings containing two or more domestic premises.
- The Government Response to the Fire Safety Consultation, published in March 2021, set out our proposals to:
 - implement the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report recommendations that require a change in law – The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022;
 - strengthen the Fire Safety Order by amending it via the Building safety Bill; and,
 - improve the effectiveness of arrangements for consultation and information sharing between building control bodies and fire and rescue authorities.
- We are also undertaking an overhaul of the guidance that supports the FSO.
- Together with the wider proposals set out within the Building Safety Bill, these measures will ensure there is greater accountability and responsibility for fire and structural safety issues throughout the lifecycle of all regulated buildings.



Fire Safety Act

- The Fire Safety Act is the Government's **first legislative step to deliver on the Grenfell Inquiry's recommendations and will be commenced shortly.**
- The Fire Safety Act addresses the legal ambiguity over whether the FSO covers external walls and flat entrance doors for buildings which contain two or more domestic premises. This ambiguity had left Responsible Persons, Fire Risk Assessors and enforcing authorities to decide how to interpret the Order for these buildings, with mixed approaches being applied.
- The Act clarifies the application of the FSO to the **external walls and flat entrance doors in buildings which contain two or more domestic premises.**
- It also affirms that **action can be taken by enforcement authorities (predominantly Fire and Rescue Authorities)** in respect of these aspects of a building.
- The Act will be commenced shortly alongside an online tool, the **Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool (FRAPT)**, that helps Responsible Persons to update fire risk assessments in order of priority.



Fire Safety Act 2021

CHAPTER 24

Building Safety Bill

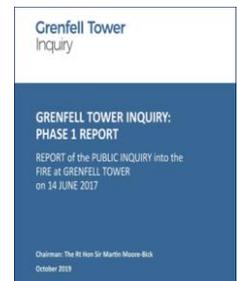
- The Building Safety Bill creates **a new regulatory regime for high rise residential buildings (over 18m)**. Fire and Rescue services will perform a key role in delivering the new regime as part of a multi-disciplinary team approach.
- The Fire Safety Order (FSO) **will continue to apply to all workplaces and the common parts of buildings containing two or more domestic premises**. The two regimes will operate in tandem with the MDT model enabling effective interaction between regulators.
- The Bill contains a **fire safety clause that will strengthen the FSO** in a number of key areas. This delivers on proposals from our 2020 Fire Safety Consultation to **place increased obligations on responsible persons and make it easier for regulators to take enforcement action** when this is required.
- More specifically, they will **create more transparency around Responsible Persons' activities, strengthen the potential consequences of failing to comply with the requirements of the Order and ensure residents in buildings containing two or more domestic premises are provided with key fire safety information**.

Bill in the House of Lords

- 1st reading
- 2nd reading
- Committee stage
- Report stage**
- 3rd reading

Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022

- The Government response to the Fire Safety Consultation **outlined how the Government proposes to implement the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations, in England**, that require a change in law.
- The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 will **implement most of the Inquiry's recommendations in a way that is practical and effective, as well as proportionate to the risks the Inquiry has identified**.
- **We plan to lay these regulations shortly**, once the Fire Safety Act has commenced.
- We understand the importance of getting implementation right. That is why we have consulted separately on the **complex issue of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans**. The consultation closed on 19 July and we are now in the final stages of drafting our response which we plan to publish as soon as possible.



Evacuation Research

- Four research strands have been established to support the Grenfell Tower Phase 1 Report recommendation 33.22a:
 - ‘...the government **develop national guidelines for carrying out partial or total evacuations of high-rise residential buildings**, such guidelines to include the means of protecting fire exit routes and procedures for evacuating persons who are unable to use the stairs in an emergency, or who may require assistance (such as disabled people, older people and young children).’
- The Home Office has commissioned the University of Central Lancashire to carry out the strand on **operational evacuation research**.
- The operational research will seek to establish the **most effective methods of evacuating** apartment blocks, and will look at how occupants and firefighters behave and make decisions about evacuation in fires.
- **The plan for live-testing a range of scenarios is being finalised.**

Fire Prevention

- Much of the focus of this reform focuses on building safety up to the front door. As **the majority of fire-related fatalities and injuries occur in the home, promoting domestic fire safety is crucial** to support the reform programme.
- The Fire Kills campaign is the key lever to promote fire safety in the home. It **educates people on the steps and behaviours to reduce the likelihood and impact of fires in the home**. It has contributed to the increase in smoke alarm ownership in homes, up from eight per cent in 1988 to the latest figure of 91 per cent homes with working smoke alarms in 2019/20.
- We collaborate with the NFCC to **support local FRSs in the delivery of year-round local fire safety activities through the provision of resources and hooks on which to hang local delivery**.
- The **creation of the online home fire safety check tool**, providing the opportunity for a person-centred self-assessment – complementing the in-person visits – demonstrates the value of this collaboration in supporting local FRS delivery.
- This year's Fire Kills advertising campaign has been **delivered in partnership with the National Fire Chiefs Council and ran from Monday 21 February through to Sunday 13 March**.

