



Home Office

Lord Greenhalgh  
Minister of State for Building Safety,  
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Ministry of Housing, Communities &  
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To all Fire and Rescue Authority  
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29<sup>th</sup> April 2020

I am writing to provide you with further information on the £20 million grant funding that will be made available to support protection work. Of this, £4m will be provided to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and £16m directly to fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in 2020/21 to drive improvement in fire and rescue services (FRSs) across the country.

This is an unprecedented surge in protection funding and should enable FRSs to have the technical expertise required to fulfil this function and ensure fire protection officers have the skills they need. This funding is from two grants: (i) £10 million Fire Protection Board funding from MHCLG focused on ensuring fire safety in high-rise residential buildings over 18m and (ii) £10 million Protection Uplift funding from the Home Office to bolster work targeting other higher risk buildings.

On high-rise residential buildings, the NFCC established the Fire Protection Board last summer, initially to facilitate a building risk review exercise to ensure that the interim measures in place in ACM-clad high-rise residential buildings awaiting remediation are appropriate and allow for safe continued occupation. I am delighted that this work has been completed, with all buildings either having been visited and deemed safe, remediation having taken place, or, in a minority of cases, continual monitoring being put in place by the local FRS with building owners to manage and maintain the interim measures, and continually assess the risks.

This work is now expanding to all high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres and to support this, the Government will provide £6 million of funding to local FRAs. The funding allocations will be based upon the number of high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres within each FRA area, and used to deliver the wider building risk review programme. To ensure its benefit, each FRA (with the exception of the Isle of Wight and the Isles of Scilly FRAs) will receive a minimum of £60,000, which is roughly equivalent to the costs associated with one inspection officer. The allocations are available in the accompanying Fire Protection Board Grant table. With the focus on high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres, the Government is keen that other high-risk buildings receive appropriate attention. To support FRSs in

their protection work ensuring the safety of other high-risk buildings, a further £10m will be distributed among FRAs in England. Allocations for this funding have been determined by the number of high-risk buildings within each FRA area. The funding is to be used to support the improvement in protection work and its delivery in line with locally agreed integrated risk management plans and risk-based inspection programmes. The allocations are available in the accompanying Protection Uplift Grant table.

The two FRAs not receiving the funds directly, Isle of Wight and Isles of Scilly, will still be able to access additional funding where required for protection work. Owing to the collaborative working relationship already in place between the Hampshire and Isle of Wight FRAs ahead of the formal merging in April 2021, the funds to be allocated to the latter will be provided to the former to reduce administrative burdens in delivering the money. The calculations for each fund would provide the Isles of Scilly FRA with minimal funding, the distribution of which would result in a disproportionate level of administration. The Isles of Scilly FRA will therefore be able to access funding through Cornwall FRA.

Home Office officials will be in touch in due course to formally confirm funding through a grant agreement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SGH' followed by a stylized flourish.

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