



Jessica Benger &lt;jessica.benger@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: ESFA Letter to the GB of all VA schools - Please include on agenda for next GB meeting**

1 message

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**Feniton Primary School** <admin@feniton.devon.sch.uk>  
To: "jessica.benger@gmail.com" <jessica.benger@gmail.com>  
Cc: "Head [FPS]" <head@feniton.devon.sch.uk>

19 March 2018 at 18:42

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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**From:** Harry Tear <harry.tear@exeter.anglican.org>  
**Date:** 19 March 2018 at 17:01:23 GMT  
**Cc:** Richard Power <richard.power@exeter.anglican.org>  
**Subject:** FW: ESFA Letter to the GB of all VA schools - Please include on agenda for next GB meeting

***Letter for the Governing Bodies of VA schools from ESFA – to be circulated through Dioceses***

***Please include on agenda for next GB meeting***

Dear Colleague,

**RE: Building Safety Programme and Fire Safety Advice**

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation with the department last summer to help us gather vital information about our school estate in the wake of the tragic Grenfell Tower fire. With your help, we were able to swiftly identify the limited instances where Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding of concern was present and worked with the Fire and Rescue Service so that both affected schools were checked and confirmed as safe for continued use, while remedial work is planned.

As you will be aware, the government has responded to the issues highlighted by Grenfell by establishing both a Public Inquiry into the Tower fire, as well as engaging Dame Judith Hackitt to lead an Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. The Hackitt Review published its interim report on 18 December 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-interim-report>. The final report is due to be published in the spring.

To further support the government's response to the fire the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, set up the Building Safety Programme (BSP), working with an Independent Expert Advisory Panel to consider emerging issues on fire and building safety more widely. The BSP issues updates as these become available. This includes recent advice for building owners of high-rise, residential buildings with non-ACM cladding, which they are concerned about. Whilst this advice is primarily intended for residential accommodation, it is relevant to other public buildings, such as schools. We want to encourage you to consider this in relation to your school and ensure advice from the BSP is acted upon. You can keep up to date with the latest information from the BSP and view previous advice by registering for automatic updates at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/building-safety-programme](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-safety-programme).

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, all building owners are required to ensure that an appropriate and up-to-date Fire Risk Assessment is in place for their buildings. As a body responsible for a school, you must comply with the requirements of the Fire Safety Order. You should ensure that you have an appropriate and up-to-date Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) for all school buildings within your control. These should take into account any fire safety risks and detail the mitigations in place to manage these.

One of the interim recommendations Dame Judith makes in her report, is that the FRA should be completed more regularly, particularly for high-rise buildings (any building over 18m in height), which she recommends should be completed annually. We ask that you take this opportunity to review the FRA for your buildings, to ensure it is up-to-date and consider your review period for these checks.

Advice on how to complete an FRA is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-risk-assessment-educational-premises>. If you would like more information on how to appoint a 'competent person' to carry out the FRA, the Chief Fire Officers Association has issued advice on what to consider. You can see this advice at: <http://www.cfoa.org.uk/19532>.

ESFA will be issuing a Good Estates Management (GEM) guide. This will provide you with advice and guidance on how to efficiently and effectively manage your school site. Look out for the GEM publication on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) later this spring.

Finally, we would like to remind you to contact the department's Grenfell Response Team if you believe you have not responded to our survey, particularly if any buildings within your control are over 18m tall. You can contact us with this information, or any other questions, at: [FireSafety.ESFA@education.gov.uk](mailto:FireSafety.ESFA@education.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Julian Wood  
Director of ESFA Capital

[www.exeter.anglican.org](http://www.exeter.anglican.org)

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