

Five weeks on from the Grenfell Tower fire, the Government's system of fire safety checks is not fit for purpose – John Healey

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Healey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, responding to the release of new information on fire safety tests of tower blocks, said:

"Five weeks on from the Grenfell Tower fire, the Government's system of fire safety checks on tower blocks is not fit for purpose.

"The latest statement from Ministers, smuggled out yesterday evening as the Commons finished for the day, confirms that there are still 52 tower blocks with the same type of cladding as Grenfell Tower that have not been tested. Even worse, it confirms there are still thousands of other tower blocks around the country which may not be safe but which Government tests have ignored.

"These fire safety tests are vital to reassure residents that their homes are safe, but the testing process to date has failed to do this. The tests are too slow, too narrow and confused. Residents are still worried and landlords are in the dark. Secretary of State Sajid Javid must report fully to Parliament tomorrow before the summer recess and explain how he is going to get a grip of this mess."