

[Geospatial Commission to release core identifiers under Open Government Licence](#)

Just like everyone has a national insurance number and every vehicle a number plate, every address has a Unique Property Reference Number and every street has its own Unique Street Reference Number. They are the golden thread of the UK's world leading addressing system.

To recognise their importance, the [Open Standards Board](#) has mandated that they will now be the standard way of referencing and sharing information about properties and streets across government to improve services and outcomes for citizens such as helping to improve fraud detection, creating better waste collection routes, more accurate insurance quotes and house buying processes.

Minister for Housing Rt Hon Christopher Pincher said:

“I am delighted by today's announcement and encouraged by the new opportunities this presents to digitally transform public services and boost our economy.

“This is the most powerful boost for the UK PropTech sector in a generation, unlocking new levels of digital innovation on a national scale. Open identifiers are crucial for tech entrepreneurs and wider industry – they will enable housing developers to find sites that have the most potential, helping deliver much-needed new homes across the country.

“This is an important milestone in the Government's commitment to maximising the value of geospatial data.”

Further information can be found in the latest [blog from the Government Digital Service](#)

This announcement follows on from the Geospatial Commission's [announcement today](#) that it is to fund a 10 year Public Sector Geospatial Agreement.

Image Credit: K303/Shutterstock.com

[Important information for British](#)

[nationals departing India](#)

On 24 March, Prime Minister Modi announced a three week lockdown across India from midnight on 25 March. Strict restrictions on movement are now in place unless for an essential purpose.

We are working with the Indian authorities and airlines to support British nationals who want to leave India and [return to the UK](#).

Once flights have been confirmed, travellers should leave plenty of time to get to the airport as movement may be more difficult than normal. You should make sure you are able to show authorities:

- proof of a booked flight (a boarding pass if possible)
- your passport
- a (printed, if possible) copy of the [British movement letter](#) (PDF, 330KB, 1 page) issued by the British High Commission confirming that you should be allowed to travel

This English letter has also been translated into the main Indian regional languages:

- West Bengal – [British movement letter Bengali](#) (PDF, 819KB, 1 page)
- Gujrat – [British movement letter Gujurati](#) (PDF, 625KB, 1 page)
- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh – [British movement letter Hindi](#) (PDF, 859KB, 1 page)
- Karnataka – [British movement letter Kannada](#) (PDF, 976KB, 1 page)
- Kerala – [British movement letter Malayalam](#) (PDF, 879KB, 1 page)
- Maharashtra – [British movement letter Marathi](#) (PDF, 1.45MB, 1 page)
- Punjab – [British movement letter Punjabi](#) (PDF, 689KB, 1 page)
- Tamil Nadu – [British movement letter Tamil](#) (PDF, 403KB, 1 page)
- Andhra Pradesh – [British movement letter Telugu](#) (PDF, 635KB, 1 page)

For Goa, and other states not listed, we recommend using the English letter above.

[Updates on building safety reforms:](#) [Dear Colleague Letter](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Government confirms the biggest changes to building safety in a generation

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick MP has today (2 April 2020) announced ambitious steps to further reform the building safety system with the biggest changes in a generation to ensure residents are safe in their homes.

New measures announced today include mandatory sprinkler systems and consistent wayfinding signage in all new high-rise blocks of flats over 11 metres tall.

The government's construction expert, David Hancock, has also been appointed to review the progress of removing unsafe ACM claddings from buildings.

The reforms are designed to incentivise compliance and to better enable the use of enforcement powers and sanctions, including prosecution where the rules are not followed.

The Housing Secretary will hold a roundtable with mortgage lenders to work on an agreed approach to mortgage valuations for properties in buildings under 18 metres tall, providing certainty for owners affected by vital building safety work.

Housing Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

The government is bringing about the biggest change in building safety for a generation.

Today we have made a major step towards this by publishing our response to the [Building a Safer Future consultation](#). This new regime will put residents' safety at its heart, and follows the announcement of the unprecedented £1 billion fund for removing unsafe cladding from high-rise buildings in the Budget.

Today we are also announcing that the housing industry is designing a website so lenders and leaseholders can access the information needed to proceed with sales and re-mortgaging, and the government stands ready to help to ensure this work is completed at pace.

Building safety is a priority and the government is supporting

industry in ensuring homes are safe at this difficult time.

The measures build on recent announcements including:

- providing £1 billion in 2020/21 to support the remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding materials on high-rise buildings. This is in addition to the £600 million already available remediation of high-rise buildings with unsafe ACM cladding
- naming building owners who have been slow to act in removing unsafe ACM cladding
- the introduction of the Fire Safety Bill, which took us one step further in delivering the recommendations of the Grenfell Inquiry's Phase One report

The latest non-ACM (aluminium composite material) cladding testing results have been published today and show that none of the materials, including high-pressure laminate (HPL) and timber cladding, behaved in the same way as ACM.

The government is clear that any unsafe materials should be removed from buildings quickly. External wall systems on high-rise buildings using Class C or D HPL panels are unsafe and should be removed as they do not comply with building regulations.

The government recognises the challenges presented to the building industry by COVID-19. The work to remove unsafe cladding from buildings is critical to public safety and so remains a top priority.

The government is supporting building owners, managers and residents to ensure remediation work continues where it is safe to do so. The government has also made clear that vital maintenance and repair work can continue to take place in line with public health guidance.

Following the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017, Dame Judith Hackitt undertook an [independent review of building regulations and fire safety](#). The government consulted on its proposals for a new building and fire safety system, based on Dame Judith's review.

The government will legislate for the new reforms through the Building Safety Bill. We are committed to bringing forward legislation that delivers meaningful and lasting change at the earliest possible opportunity. Residents' safety will be at the heart of these reforms.

Earlier this year, the government announced that it is creating a new, national Building Safety Regulator, which is already being established in shadow form by the Health and Safety Executive.

Surveillance Camera Commissioner newsletters

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1. 2 September 2021

Added August 2021 newsletter

2. 9 June 2021

Added May 2021 newsletter

3. 2 November 2020

Added October 2020 newsletter.

4. 6 August 2020

Added August newsletter.

5. 10 June 2020

Added a newsletter for June 2020.

6. 2 April 2020

Added the newsletter for March 2020.

7. 10 October 2019

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