

# [Press release: Independent review of building regulations and fire safety](#)

An independent review of building regulations and fire safety has been announced by the government today (28 July 2017).

This follows the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, which raised serious questions about the fire safety of high rise residential buildings, and subsequent government testing of aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding from similar buildings across the country.

The [first result from large scale tests](#) of building cladding systems has also been published today. These latest tests simulate a tall building and allow experts to understand better how different types of cladding panels behave with different types of insulation in a fire.

The first system tested, a wall cladding system using an aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding with unmodified polyethylene filler (Cat 3) and foam insulation, failed the test which is set out in current building regulations guidance.

Immediate action is already underway to ensure the safety of residents in these buildings. But the results also make clear that we need to understand how current building regulations and fire safety works in order to make them as effective as possible in the future.

This forward-looking independent review, to be led by Dame Judith Hackitt, Chair of EEF, the Manufacturers' Organisation, will look at current building regulations and fire safety with a particular focus on high rise residential buildings. It will report jointly to the Communities Secretary Sajid Javid and the Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

It will examine:

- the regulatory system around the design, construction and on-going management of buildings in relation to fire safety
- related compliance and enforcement issues
- international regulation and experience in this area

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Since the tragic Grenfell Tower disaster, the government has been working to make sure people living in high rise buildings are safe.

It's clear we need to urgently look at building regulations and fire safety. This independent review will ensure we can swiftly make any necessary improvements. Government is determined to make sure that we learn the lessons from the Grenfell Tower fire, and to ensure nothing like it can happen again.

As part of the review, Dame Judith will consult the [Buildings Regulations Advisory Committee](#) – which advises the government on changes to building regulations– as well as the construction and housing industry, the fire sector, international experts, MPs and the public.

The review will also work closely with other government departments and the devolved administrations and consider the implications of changes to the regulatory system on other government objectives.

Review Chair, Dame Judith Hackitt said:

I am honoured to be asked by government to lead this important independent review. This review will look at building regulations and fire safety to see what changes can be made for the future to make these more effective.

I am keen to engage widely with industry and the public to inform the recommendations from the review. I want the recommendations to lead to any necessary improvements in the system being made.

Terms of reference for this independent review will be published in summer 2017, once the terms of reference for the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry have been agreed.

It is expected that the review will present an interim report before the end of the year, and a final report no later than spring 2018. The government will act swiftly on any recommendations from this review to make sure people living in high rise buildings are safe.

## **Short biography of Dame Judith Hackitt**

Dame Judith was Chair of HSE from October 2007 to March 2016. She previously served as a health and safety Commissioner between 2002 and 2005. She was made a Dame in the 2016 New Year Honours for services to health and safety and engineering in particular for being a role model for young women. She was awarded a CBE in 2006.

In April 2016, she was appointed as Chair of EEF, The Manufacturers' Organisation in April 2016.

Dame Judith is a chemical engineer and graduated from Imperial College in 1975. She worked in the chemicals manufacturing industry for 23 years before joining the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) in 1998. She became Director General of CIA (from 2002-2005) and then worked in Brussels for the European Chemical Industry Association (CEFIC).

She was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in July 2010 and currently chairs the External Affairs Committee. Dame Judith is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and a member of council. She was President of IChemE from May 2013 to May 2014.

Dame Judith is also Chair of Semta – the Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies Alliance, and a non-executive director of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult.

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## [News story: First systems test reaffirms actions for landlords](#)

The first of the ‘systems tests’, assessing the fire safety of whole buildings, has been taking place at Building Research Establishment (BRE).

These large scale tests will allow experts to better understand how different types of cladding panels behave with different types of insulation in a fire.

Immediately after the Grenfell Tower fire, the government began a testing programme on aluminium composite material (ACM) on high rise residential buildings, which is one element of a wall cladding system.

Following advice from the Independent Expert Advisory Panel, BRE has now started a further programme to test the wall system of a building in its entirety. Three different types of ACM cladding are being combined with 2 different types of insulation to test their combustibility when taken together, with 6 combinations being tested in total.

Each test involves building a 9-metre-high demonstration wall with a complete cladding system including cladding panels, insulation and cavity barriers. This is then subjected to a replica of a severe fire inside a flat as it spreads out of a window, to see whether it meets the requirement to resist vertical fire spread.

The first test was of a wall cladding system consisting of ACM with polyethylene filler (Category 3) and foam insulation, with fire breaks and cavity barriers in place.

The expert panel advise that the [results show](#) this combination does not meet current building regulation guidance.

- 82 buildings are currently known to have this combination of materials in their wall cladding systems – 47 of which are local authority or housing association owned or managed
- the government has [issued advice](#) to every building owner known to be affected and other interested parties

In a statement, the Independent Expert Advisory Panel said:

This next phase of testing provides further information for landlords to make informed decisions about what actions to take to ensure the safety of residents and reassure the public.

This reconfirms the advice already provided to building owners about the immediate steps they should take to ensure buildings are safe.

Landlords of buildings with cladding using the same combination of materials as in this first full scale test must now act on the additional advice they have been given since this test, to seek professional advice about any necessary remedial work.

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## [News story: Master of vessel pleads guilty to fishing over quota limits](#)

The master of the fishing vessel Ocean Rover (SN2) pleaded guilty to 3 offences of fishing over quota limits and 2 offences of being present in a real time closure area at a speed of less than 6 knots.

Newcastle Crown Court heard on 25 July 2017 that marine officers from the MMO used sales note data to prove that the Ocean Rover, skippered by Gerry Lafferty, had landed in excess of its monthly quota allocations in 2015.

In January 2015 the vessel landed 510kg of whiting in excess of its quota and 10,214kg of plaice. Between July and September 2015 it landed 7,272kg of nephrops over quota. The total value of catch which was not within quota limits for 2015 is £23,274.

The court also heard that vessel monitoring system data had shown that the vessel, on two occasions in 2015 had been present in real time closure areas travelling at less than six knots, contrary to conditions in the vessel's licence

Sentencing Lafferty, Her Honour Judge Rippon said:

“These are serious offences and you understand better than most that the regulations are in place to protect the integrity of fish stocks. If they are not enforced this will present difficulties for future generations.”

Accepting that the defendant was of very limited means, the judge imposed a sentence of a conditional discharge of 24 months.

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## Press release: Seaford restaurateur disqualified for employing illegal workers

Mr Hussain has given an undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy which prevents him from becoming directly or indirectly involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company for seven years from 18 July 2017.

Mr Hussain was the director of Hussain Bros Ltd trading as Bengal Palace, a restaurant, and on 13 December 2013, Home Office Immigration Enforcement Officers discovered that they were employing three workers who were not eligible to work in the UK.

The company went into liquidation on 5 November 2015 owing £821,733 to creditors, of which £15,000 was outstanding of the £15,000 penalty imposed by the Home Office Immigration and Enforcement for employing three illegal workers.

The unfit conduct that led to Mr Hussain giving the Undertaking was that he failed to ensure that Hussain Bros Ltd complied with its obligations as an employer under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

Commenting on the disqualification, Martin Gitner, Deputy Head of Investigations with the Insolvency Service said:

Illegal workers are not protected under employment law, and as well as cheating legitimate job seekers out of employment opportunities these employers defraud the tax payer and undercut honest competitors.

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, makes employers responsible for preventing illegal workers in the UK. To comply with the law, a company must check and be able to prove documents have been checked prior to recruitment that show a person is entitled to work.

The public has a right to expect that those who break the law will face the consequences and this should serve as a warning to other directors tempted to take on illegal staff.

## Notes to editors

Mr Mohammed Eleas Hussain's, date of birth is January 1959 and he resides in Seaford.

Hussain Bros Limited (CR0 No. 07371289) was incorporated on 9 September 2010. Its registered office was Church Street, Seaford, East Sussex. BN25 1LD. The company traded as Bengal Palace Restaurant.

Mr Hussain was a director from 9 September 2010 to Liquidation. The company went into creditors voluntary liquidation on 9 November 2015 with an estimated deficiency of £821,733.

On 27 June 2017, the Secretary of State accepted a Disqualification Undertaking from Mr Hussain, effective from 18 July 2017, for a period of 7 years.

The matters of unfitness, which Mr Hussain did not dispute in his Disqualification Undertaking, were that:

I failed to ensure that Hussain Bros Ltd trading as Bengal Palace ("HBL") complied with its statutory obligations under The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to ensure that relevant immigration checks were completed and copy documents retained, resulting in the employment of at least three illegal workers.

On 13 December 2013, the Home Office attended the trading premises of HBL and it was found to be employing at least three illegal workers.

On 06 February 2014, the Home Office issued HBL with a Notification of Liability for a Civil Penalty of £15,000 in respect of these three illegal workers.

This penalty was not paid by the due date of 10 March 2014 and the Home Office is a creditor in the liquidation proceedings for £15,000.

Between 10 March 2014 and the date of liquidation 5 November 2015, no payments were made in respect of this penalty.

As the sole director of HBL, I was responsible for ensuring that

HBL complied with all relevant legislation, including legislation relating to the employment of persons eligible to work.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies. The agency also authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Further information about the work of the Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team is [available](#)

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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# News story: SMEs strongly represented on new fuels framework

SMEs make up almost three quarters of the total number of suppliers on Crown Commercial Service's (CCS) new National Fuels framework, expected to be worth around £850 million.

The framework supports central government and the wider public sector to procure heating oil and fuel for motor vehicles as well as marine and aviation fuel, Liquid Petroleum Gas, solid fuel, biomass and lubricants and greases.

The new framework has 34 suppliers, with 24 (71%) of them SMEs. It is expected to save public sector bodies £5.3m over 4 years.

SMEs awarded places on the framework are based across the UK, including Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the North West of England, London, Leicestershire and Hampshire.

Sam Ulyatt, Strategic Category Commercial Director said:

CCS is excited to announce a new framework for the whole UK public sector that aligns policy and delivery and truly delivers value.

## **How it works**

In 2016/7 over 200 million litres of fuel worth £169 million was procured through the previous Liquid Fuels framework.

The new agreement has a wider scope with more fuel types and extra, supporting services on offer for the first time.

## **Lotting Structure**

- Lot 1 Liquid Fuels – subdivided into 14 regional lot groups.
- Lot 2 Liquified Gas
- Lot 3 Solid Fuel and Biomass
- Lot 4 Greases, Lubricants and Antifreeze
- Lot 5 Associated Products and Services