

What needs to be done to address this national crisis

1. **For social housing, emergency funding** must be made available from central government contingency funds to address this national crisis.
2. **For private housing, central government must cover the initial costs**, and then seek to recover costs from landlords, developers and contractors
3. **All residents should be guaranteed that they will not pay more** for using extra energy over the winter. Payments for extra costs should be direct to residents, and should be made in time to cover the bills or prepayment meter costs when needed.
4. Where cladding/insulation has been removed landlords are still responsible for protecting residents from the **hazard of damp and mould**.
5. **Residents forced to live temporarily in blocks which still have flammable cladding should be protected as far as possible**, without cost to themselves, by fire wardens, alarms, and, where wanted, sprinklers.
6. **Residents forced to wait for cladding and insulation to be restored, should be offered a package of special measures** with the aim of ensuring that that **health and safety standards** are maintained as far as possible. These measures should include, as required: approved damp and mould treatment; safe space heaters; draught-proofing; immediate repairs to faulty or inadequate boilers, heating controls, windows, and vents; enhanced out-of-hours services; facilities for drying laundry without adding to moisture in the home; hot meals for those who need them; warm and comfortable places to go in the daytime; and facilities to exercise (e.g. free gym/pool use).
7. **Consultation** must ensure that residents are fully informed about options and cladding is replaced in accordance with their wishes.
8. All new developments, and refurbishments, must be effectively monitored and inspected by **independent, legally responsible authorities** to ensure that both **fire safety and insulation**, are in place to acceptable standards.
9. Immediate safe, good, permanent housing must be offered in the area of their choice for **Grenfell survivors**; no deportations of affected individuals; **criminal charges** against those responsible for the fire.
10. These demands are in addition to the [interim recommendations of the Hackitt Review](#). We want particularly to draw attention to the need for “**a clear, quick and effective route for residents’ voices to be heard and listened to**”, which can and should be implemented immediately, as a first step towards genuine accountability. Another key recommendation is: “**Responsibility and accountability must rest with clearly identifiable senior individuals**”. These recommendations should apply to insulation as well as fire safety.

This is because:

- Many thousands of UK residents living in high rise blocks are now in danger from either cold or fire.
- Since the Grenfell disaster, only seven of the over 300 tower blocks with flammable cladding and insulation have had it replaced.
- Residents in 92 blocks, mostly social housing tenants, have had it removed, but not yet replaced. In the past extremely cold winter many have suffered unbearable cold, damp and mould. Climate scientists warn that with changing polar wind patterns, future winters are likely to be as bad in the UK.
- Meanwhile leaseholders in private buildings are being asked to find tens of thousands of pounds for replacement cladding, or to go to bed each night in fear of another fire like Grenfell. Many do not have the money, for cladding or even to maintain the 24 hour fire wardens that they are now paying for.
- In both cases, residents are paying from their pockets and with their health for a crisis they did not create.
- Responsibility rests with central and local governments, developers, manufacturers, and landlords. The Government has long allowed regulations to be watered down or to become outdated, testing regimes to be privatised and compromised, and has neglected the enforcement of standards in the development and refurbishment of housing. This has resulted in disastrous fires, and also in deaths from cold: insulation has been found to be absent, even where specified. Flammable plastic cladding is widespread on our buildings, and [UK homes](#) are among the least well insulated in Europe.
- Central government is the only body with the resources and power to address this national crisis.
- Immediately after Grenfell the Government promised that: **“We cannot and will not ask people to live in unsafe homes.”** (Theresa May, 22 June statement to Parliament) and, **“Where works are necessary to ensure the fire safety of a building, [we will ensure](#) that lack of financial resources will not prevent them going ahead.”** (Sajid Javid , 26 July, to social housing providers).
- These promises have so far not been fulfilled, with the government instead passing responsibility to local authorities who have lost nearly half of their funding, and to private landlords, who have declined to act.
- Fire and cold both kill.