

Michael Gove, Secretary of State,
Dept for Levelling Up Housing & Communities,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF,
ENGLAND.

4 April 2023.

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing in response to your recent letter to our Group Chief Executive (23 March 2023) in my capacity as Managing Director of Kingspan Insulation Great Britain & Ireland.

I do so in the context of what I believe is a widespread misunderstanding about the safety of our products, arising in part from initial confusion around the role of combustible insulation in the Grenfell Tower fire. As you are aware, the Grenfell Inquiry has subsequently revealed:

1. "The principal reason" for the rapid fire spread was the Polyethylene-cored ACM cladding. Kingspan did not make this cladding.
2. The type of insulation used was not a factor in the speed or spread of the fire. This supports the findings of your department's building safety tests in 2017.
3. Even had non-combustible insulation been used, this would not have changed the speed or spread of the fire.

We have absolute confidence in the safety of our K15 insulation board when installed correctly in appropriate external wall systems. We welcome the BSI guidance (PAS 9980), sponsored by the UK Government, which supports the retention of K15 in appropriate systems.

However, in circumstances where we have responsibility for the inappropriate use of K15 in buildings, and its safe retention cannot be supported by testing, we will pay our share of remediation costs. This was outlined in our submission to your department on 7 February 2022.

We recognise that building safety is a critical matter for our industry. Safety issues on high-rise buildings range far wider than cladding or insulation products, and involve a host of stakeholders and different product categories.

For this reason, our submission in February 2022 also offered to contribute to an appropriate joint Government and industry-wide scheme, that is equitable and shared across the entire construction industry, to support the wider fire safety issues on buildings where those responsible can't or won't pay.


We continue to stand by these commitments. As far as we are aware Kingspan was the first, and remains the only, manufacturer who has publicly committed to an appropriate industry-wide scheme.

Finally, the historical actions of a small number of individuals in our organisation, to which you refer, have been comprehensively addressed within the business and further governance and compliance measures have since been implemented consistent with the recommendations from the Hackitt Review. It is important however to clarify that these historical actions were not causative of the Grenfell tragedy.

I and others on my UK senior team remain very open to engaging and working with your department, together with the Construction Products Association and other relevant stakeholders, to find the best industry-wide solution.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



AIVEEN KEARNEY
Managing Director
Kingspan Insulation GB&I