

## Our Reference: 2501/PLC

25 January 2022

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

### The Approach To Building Safety

Dear Minister:

Thank you for your letter of 22 January, which we have sent to all of our members.

We understand the need for industry to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in an open and transparent way to address the need for remediation on buildings that are over 11 metres. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials to clarify how this can best be achieved prior to a wider meeting involving both CPA members and relevant non-members. We are keen to help you and your officials ensure you have all the information on the entire sector that we have at our disposal.

In addition to helping to meet the near-term needs of existing buildings, both ourselves and our members are fully committed to changing the practices and culture within our sector and the wider construction industry that will be just as critical in the longer-term. In particular, we have:

- Assisted and fully supported Dame Judith Hackitt in her [Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety](#), including with your officials and the [Industry Response Group](#).
- Designed, developed and are now on the eve of launching the [Code for Construction Product Information](#) which we believe will prevent misleading marketing information about products being produced in future.
- Developed a competence process to raise the bar for all who work with construction products, including architects, builders, and manufacturers.
- Contributed to your team working on the new regulations and supporting Publicly Available Specification (PAS) documents.
- Continued to help across a wide range of activities, be that through the [Construction Leadership Council](#), [Building Regulations Advisory Committee](#), the [British Standards Institution](#), [Industry Safety Steering Group](#), and now with the [Office for Product Safety & Standards](#).
- Developed with others a digital information process to ensure construction product information is reliable, clear and available to those who need it.
- Worked with colleagues through the CLC in respect of the current insurance issues that affect the whole sector, because in order to process the remediation work we need solutions in that area.

The CPA has invested a considerable proportion of the Association's time, resources and financial support, and will continue with all these activities to achieve the necessary reform and culture change.

Your primary concern is understandably with the stock of existing buildings that have been identified as unsafe, and the appalling consequences for occupiers and home owners. We will help to the best of our ability. In addressing the key issues, it is important that the response is proportionate as you stated clearly in the House of Commons. Products can be incorrectly procured, installed and maintained by the builder/contractor in such a way as to make the building as a whole unsafe. Products are also routinely substituted by the builder/contractor without clear records, again making the process of ensuring the building is safe difficult and protracted.

We look forward to working with you and your officials in an open and transparent way to ensure all buildings, particularly homes, are safe now and in the future.

Yours Sincerely,



**Peter L Caplehorn,  
Chief Executive**