

Fire and Building Safety (Public Inquiry) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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Establish an independent public inquiry into the Government's response to concerns about fire and building safety.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Public inquiry into fire and building safety

- (1) *The Secretary of State must as soon as reasonably practicable establish a public inquiry into the Government's response to concerns about fire and building safety in England since the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017.*
- (2) The terms of reference of that inquiry must include the actions of the Government—
 - (a) to establish the scale and prevalence of building safety deficiencies, including in—
 - (i) buildings below 18 metres in height, and
 - (ii) buildings clad with aluminium composite or other combustible materials; 10
 - (b) to adequately protect the safety of the public in the design of the Building Safety Fund, including in relation to—
 - (i) social housing properties,
 - (ii) buildings below 18 metres in height, 15
 - (iii) fire safety defects and remediation works not relating to cladding and the ongoing costs of waking watches, and
 - (iv) assessing the adequacy of monies allocated to the fund in it achieving its objectives;
 - (c) to support leaseholders, including in relation to— 20
 - (i) the remediation costs of fire safety defects not caused by, or the fault of, leaseholders,
 - (ii) the adequacy of the limitation period from construction for seeking legal redress for such costs,
 - (iii) leaseholders unable to seek redress from builders whose 25 companies are insolvent or dissolved, and

- (iv) the costs and benefits of legal action regarding remediation works.

2 Provisions of the Inquiries Act 2005 to apply to the inquiry

The following provisions of the Inquiries Act 2005 apply to the inquiry established under section 1 as if it was an inquiry under that Act— 5

- (a) sections 2 to 14 (constitution of inquiry);
- (b) sections 17 to 23 (inquiry proceedings);
- (c) sections 24 to 26 (reports);
- (d) section 27 (United Kingdom inquiries);
- (e) section 31 (the relevant part of the United Kingdom and the applicable rules); 10
- (f) sections 35 to 43 (supplementary and general);
- (g) section 50 (Crown Application).

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only. 15
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Fire and Building Safety (Public Inquiry) Act 2021.

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