



In spring 2020, the Government announced the creation of a £1 billion building safety fund, increasing to £1.6 billion the total amount of money available for cladding remediation.

Registration for the fund (“Stage 1”) was required by 31 July 2020. Detailed full costs applications for eligible buildings (“Stage 2”) must be submitted by 31 December 2020.

Eye-watering as £1 billion seems, it appears to be accepted that it is insufficient, even just to replace cladding on buildings over 18 metres high. Answering questions from the Housing Communities & Local Government Select Committee on 18 May 2020, Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, said:

“... the cost of remediation of cladding alone for these buildings—high-rises above 18 metres—is considerably more than £1 billion... the estimates that I have seen, just for the remediation of unsafe cladding, are £3 billion or £3.5 billion”.

The Committee estimated, in its report of 12 June 2020, that when “all fire safety defects in every high-rise or high-risk residential building” were taken into account, that the cost could “potentially” rise to £15 billion.

