

Appendix 1

18 June 2020

Firefighters condemn housebuilder's "reckless" call for flammable cladding rules to be relaxed

Responding to comments from housebuilder Berkeley Group in *The Times* that government restrictions on the use of flammable cladding should be relaxed, the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) has condemned the "shameless attempt" to protect their profits over people's safety and called for "unscrupulous housebuilders" like Berkeley Group to have their property with dangerous cladding brought into public ownership.

Matt Wrack, FBU general secretary, said:

"Berkeley Group's suggestion that the government should relax the ban on Grenfell type cladding is utterly contemptible, reckless, and goes against expert advice and the clear desire of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

"72 people lost their lives at Grenfell and to suggest that the cladding responsible for that disaster is 'low risk' – when research has shown it to be as flammable as petrol - shows the type of disregard for human life that led to the Grenfell tragedy happening in the first place.

"Make no mistake, these comments from the Berkeley Group are an attempt to move the conversation on and protect their profits from funding vital remediation work. This shameless behaviour is emblematic of a system that values profit over people.

"We cannot trust these companies to regulate themselves. Unscrupulous housebuilders like Berkeley Group should have their property with ACM and other dangerous cladding brought into public ownership with immediate effect."

Ends