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Freedom of Information request reference number: 8554.1

Date of response: 18/04/2024

Request:

I refer to recent news in the Evening Standard, asking Londoners to get the cladding off and highlighting that 1250 buildings in London are still unsafe. Would it be possible to share the list of unsafe buildings with us so that we can offer our services to assist in remediation?

Response:

This information is exempt from disclosure under <u>section 38(1)(b) of the FOIA - Health and Safety</u>, as disclosing it would be likely to endanger the safety of individuals.

Section 38 is not an absolute exemption, and we must consider the public interest test. We understand that there is still a significant amount of public interest in the issue of the cladding, particularly given the large number of buildings (and individuals) that continue to be impacted by the cladding on their buildings. We recognise the public interest in ensuring that remedial measures either have been, or are in the process of being, completed to make certain that, where necessary, properties conform to Building Regulation guidance. However, disclosing details of a property, identified by name and address, which is known to be vulnerable to the effects of a fire, would also be useful intelligence and therefore likely to be of assistance to a terrorist group, or similar, should they be contemplating an attack on such a building.

Therefore, we believe it is not in the public interest to disclose the requested information. The disclosure of a list of buildings with unsafe cladding will result in an increase in risk and would be likely to result in endangement to the health and safety of the occupants, visitors, or owners of the relevant buildings. This is because there is a likelihood of buildings being targeted by persons with malicious intent (for example arsonists or terrorists) should the requested information be disclosed.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us