

Independent review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety

Submission of Evidence by CIBSE and the Society of Façade Engineering

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The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)

1. CIBSE is one of the leading global professional organisations for building performance related knowledge. The Institution and its members are the primary source of professional guidance for the building services sector on the design, installation and maintenance of energy efficient building services systems to deliver healthy, comfortable and effective building performance. Our focus is on adopting a co-ordinated approach at all stages of the life cycle of buildings, including conception, briefing, design, procurement, construction, operation, maintenance and ultimate disposal.

2. CIBSE publishes guidance related to heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting, public health engineering, fire safety and sustainability of building engineering services.

The Society of Façade Engineering (SFE)

3. The Institution operates several discipline specific Divisions, one of which is the Society of Façade Engineering, which was formed in 2004. It is governed by a Council drawn from its members and administered by CIBSE. The Society acts as an axis for those involved in the façade industry to determine the credentials of members and as a surety for those seeking to employ them. Membership is open to all individuals who have an involvement in façade engineering.

5. The Society of Façade Engineering brings these people together in a forum where they can work together to advance knowledge and practice in facade engineering, promote good practice and ensure that today's increasingly complex building façades meet the many and varying performance criteria. In particular, it addresses the complex issues in building physics of thermal insulation, ventilation, lighting, solar control, and acoustics.

Consultation Response

6. CIBSE has participated in and contributed to the responses to the Independent Review submitted by the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Construction Industry Council. We fully support and endorse the content of these responses.

7. CIBSE has a particular concern about the definition of roles and responsibilities in the construction and operation of buildings, and considers that there is a pressing need for the definition of clear roles to be undertaken and the specific disciplines and competences required to undertake those roles.

8. As noted above, the Society of Façade Engineering is a specialist society of façade engineers, which operates under the auspices of CIBSE and provides a specific class of professional peer reviewed membership for façade engineers.

9. The Society has prepared a detailed response to the review which specifically addresses the façade engineering aspects of Part B and the supporting Approved Document B. This is attached with this response and is supported by the Society and by CIBSE.