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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Roy Wilsher  
Chair  
National Fire Chiefs Council

22 July 2019

Dear Roy

**Protection Board**

As you are aware, HMICFRS has identified the protection capability of FRSs as an area of concern in its tranche 1 and 2 reports. Yet this capability will also be critical to successful delivery of the Government's reforms to building safety. I am encouraged by the steps already taken by the NFCC and Fire and Rescue Services to address some of these concerns.

To ensure that Fire and Rescue Services are prepared to implement the new building safety regime, I believe it is important that there is a strengthened assurance regime to oversee protection activity. I am therefore of the view that a new Protection Board should be established which will focus on, but not limited to:

- designing a new assurance process for high risk buildings, including high-rise buildings with ACM cladding that have interim measures in place;
- leading work on improving overall standards of protection work; and
- improving the information on protection and designing the longer-term protection model

I would like you to chair this new Protection Board and propose that it would have trilateral governance between the NFCC, Home Office and MHCLG. My officials stand ready to support you in establishing the Protection Board and will work with the NFCC Building Safety Team in developing detailed terms of reference over the next couple of weeks.

I welcome your continued leadership and commitment to delivering our important reforms to fire safety and look forward to receiving your response to my request.

**RT HON NICK HURD MP**  
**Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service**