

To Whom it May Concern,

Subject: Construction Products Supply Chain

(Contract Number FM21160)

The Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS), a Directorate within the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has commissioned a study to support the development of its information and evidence base for the regulation of construction products.

The OPSS is the national regulator for consumer products (except for vehicles, medicine and food) and for legal metrology. The Government announced in January 2021 that OPSS will take on additional responsibilities as the new National Regulator for Construction Products. OPSS will work closely with the Building Safety Regulator and local regulators to promote, encourage and enforce, within the construction products industry, compliance with relevant legislation and to ensure that proportionate and effective regulatory action is taken when non-compliance with the law is identified. Full powers for the OPSS to deliver this new function are expected to be granted in 2023, following the granting of Royal Assent to the Building Safety Bill currently before Parliament.

This research will review current practices across the construction products' supply chains and consider what further action might be required, whether by the regulator or by others, to support and strengthen compliance with the law. It will focus on a selected range of construction products:

- Cables
- Cladding
- Fire barriers
- Fire doors
- Insulation

This study involves the collection of information from key stakeholders across the UK through questionnaires, interviews, focus groups and workshops.

The publication of this work is subject to the usual policies and procedures governing the publication or otherwise of commissioned research. This is one of several studies and groups collating construction information within BEIS. The intention is that all data collected are shared within BEIS and with other relevant Government Departments, such as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA), together with BWL Consulting, has been appointed to carry out the study. I would be grateful for any assistance that you can provide to RPA and BWL as they collect information and data to inform the analysis in this study. All queries about this study should, in the first instance, be addressed to RPA's project manager Sophie Garrett (sophie.garrett@rpald.co.uk).

Should additional information be required, you may wish to contact the responsible officer in OPSS, Shireen Bobat (Shireen.Bobat@beis.gov.uk).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Geoffrey Brown
Assistant Director – Construction Products