



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

8 April 2013

To:

***Housing Directors of stock-owning local authorities
Chief executives of Private Registered Providers***

In April 2010, two Hampshire FRA firefighters – Alan Bannon and James Shears - died fighting a fire on the 9th floor of Shirley Towers, a council-owned high rise block of flats in Southampton. The Coroner has written to the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser and to DCLG Ministers to highlight actions which he considers should be taken to prevent a similar tragedy occurring in the future.

The Coroner's letter included two recommendations directed particularly at social housing providers, along with a recommendation that the Minister should disseminate the Coroner's recommendations to every social housing provider. I am therefore attaching a copy of the Coroner's letter and would ask you to actively consider them.

The relevant recommendations are numbered 5 and 7 in the Coroner's letter. You will wish to consider these recommendations carefully when considering your responsibilities under the Housing Act 2004, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).

Yours sincerely,

**Terrie Alafat
Director
Housing Growth and Affordable Housing**