



Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Closing Statements September 14th 2021

The Grenfell Tower fire was a tragedy that should never have happened, and Kingspan supports the vitally important work of the Inquiry to determine what went wrong and why.

Kingspan had no role in the design of the cladding system on Grenfell Tower, where its K15 product constituted approximately 5% of the insulation purchase for use. It was used as a substitute product without Kingspan's knowledge in a system that was not compliant with the building regulations and was unsafe.

Kingspan strongly agrees with the Phase 1 Report of the Inquiry which stated that "the principal reason" for rapid fire spread on Grenfell with the polyethylene cladding panels used. Any considered review of the available evidence supports our position that the type of insulation used on the Tower made no material difference to nature and speed of the spread of the fire.

Where questions have been raised about Kingspan's historical BS 8414 testing, new tests have been carried out which provide evidence to support previous fire safety claims. Kingspan Insulation relies on each of its 14 successful BS 8414 tests to demonstrate why it is confident that K15 can safely be used and retained in appropriate cladding systems.

Arising from the Inquiry process, Kingspan has identified and apologised for process and conduct shortcomings in its UK Insulation business. Independent third-party reviews have informed Kingspan's rapid and comprehensive response to implement measures to ensure that there could be no recurrence and to reinforce our fire safety focus. These include significant process enhancements, and enhanced code of conduct, as well as traceability and supply chain integrity measures.

The evidence to the Inquiry has shown, however, that none of these shortcomings were causative of the failures that led to the Grenfell Tower fire.

The inescapable conclusion to be drawn from the evidence presented to the Inquiry is that large-scale system testing is the most robust way of assessing the safety of cladding systems.

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