

## Appendix 1

**James Courtney**  
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive

Date: 23.03.12

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EM2303FSCS

This matter is being dealt with by: Station Manager A. Cloke

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Gary Lund RMaPS, TechIOSH  
Sheffield Homes  
**Health Safety and Facilities Manager**  
Kier Depot  
Main Office Block 2nd Floor  
Manor Lane S2 1 TR

Dear Gary

### RE: Sheffield Homes Fire Safety Standards Improvement Project

The last few years have proved hugely challenging for Sheffield homes following the incident at Lakanal House, Camberwell in 2009, and the emerging issues as a result of the re-examination of building standards in the social housing sector.

Following the schedule of inspections carried by our officers at the Sheffield District Fire Safety Office, it was clear that Sheffield Homes had to make a substantial commitment both from a logistical and financial perspective to overcome the issues identified during the premises audits.

It is therefore very pleasing to note that the majority of the buildings surveyed in the initial stages can now be regarded as broadly compliant and it is clear that Sheffield Homes continue to show the level of commitment required to overcoming the remaining issues throughout their housing stock.

In my capacity as the Chief Fire Officer Association technical fire safety lead on the social housing and high rise flats working group, our experiences gained in the co-operative approach between South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and Sheffield Homes are becoming to be regarded as best practice, and as such discussed at national level.

It is therefore hoped that this effective working relationship between us can be maintained in the future to ensure the sustainability of the housing stock, protect the safety of tenants, and underline the significant commitment to safety that Sheffield Homes is undoubtedly undertaking on behalf of the communities within Sheffield District

Yours Sincerely

SM Andy Cloke  
Technical Fire Safety Central Support