XX

House of Commons,

London,

SW1A 0AA

24 June 2021

Dear XX MP,

I am writing to make you aware of a campaign that RoSPA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) are leading on stair safety.

The campaign is to amend the Building Safety Bill to include an amendment on stair design, which will radically reduce falls in the home. For every 1 hospital admission caused by fire there are 235 caused by falls, and at least 700 people die from falling on the stairs every year. Falls on stairs would be reduced by an estimated 60% by the mandatory adoption of the most up-to-date standard (British Standard 5395-1). This British Standard is an existing, tried and tested industry framework developed in 2010. Making it a legal requirement for all new build homes is a move backed by the housing industry.

It is understandable that the Government has focused on fire safety, and we support the critically important reforms the Bill will deliver in this regard. But the Grenfell Tower fire must be a watershed moment in the history of home safety overall, not just in terms of fire. No one should die because of inadequate housing design practices whatever the cause. Furthermore, safe stairs are crucial to creating safe buildings, including in the event of fire, as falling while trying to evacuate can often have tragic results.

I urge you to support RoSPA’s campaign to amend the Building Safety Bill in order to enshrine BS 5395-1 into law and in doing so significantly reduce the number of people needlessly dying and getting hurt.

Should you be interested in finding out more about RoSPA’s campaign or meeting with them to discuss it further, please do not hesitate to get in touch at [saferstairs@rospa.com](mailto:saferstairs@rospa.com).

Yours sincerely,