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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government 25 July 2016  
Government  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

*Huw*

I am writing to thank you on behalf of the insurance industry for your support and engagement during your time as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside you during your time at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in ensuring that the UK continues to retain its position as a global leader for insurance.

We look forward to continuing our productive relationship during your time at the Department for Communities and Local Government and to working with your team over the coming months, particularly in the following areas:

- **Responding to floods** – the insurance industry works in partnership with a number of Government departments including DCLG, the Environment Agency and the emergency services to respond quickly and effectively to flooding events. Insurers were on the ground immediately after the recent floods in winter 2015/16, and have responded to over 15,000 claims for flooded homes and businesses totalling an expected £1.3bn. In the event of future flooding events, we will engage early and regularly with Government, building on the good practice established in recent years.
- **Managing fire risk** - a particular area of concern for the insurance industry is the danger posed by fire, which not only endangers lives but can devastate families, businesses and livelihoods. Current DCLG guidelines for fire sprinklers only recommends that warehouses in England and Wales should be provided with a fire sprinkler system if they are larger than 20,000m<sup>2</sup>, meaning that only 20% of warehouses between 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> and 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> have fire sprinklers installed. The benefits of sprinklers are clear, and introducing a compulsory requirement for sprinklers to be fitted in all new warehouses over 2,000m<sup>2</sup> would significantly reduce the damage and danger fire causes. We would also like to see this requirement extended to cover new build schools and care homes.



We look forward to working with you, your Ministers, and your officials, and would welcome a meeting to discuss these issues. If there is anything I can help with, please do get in touch with me at [huw.evans@abi.org.uk](mailto:huw.evans@abi.org.uk) or 020 7216 7300.

*Best wishes,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw', is positioned below the closing text.

**Huw Evans**  
**Director General**



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Best wishes,

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**Huw Evans**  
**Director General**