



Subject:	Proposed reform of Construction Products regulation consultation responses
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) are seeking views via two public consultations on a package of proposals for reform of the construction products regulatory regime.
1.2	The consultations are: i) Public Consultation on a Construction Products Reform White Paper (Closing date: 20th May 2026) ii) Public Consultation on the general safety requirement for construction products (Closing date 20th May 2026)
1.3	The regulation of products on the market of construction products is a reserved matter, for which decision-making has not been delegated by Parliament to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Such matters are dealt with by Departments at Westminster, principally the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Department of Business and Trade (Office of Product Safety and Standards).
1.4	Under the Windsor Framework, Northern Ireland applies relevant European Union rules relating to the placement of a subset of construction products on the market. The Council's perspective therefore reflects that any proposed reforms to the UK wide regime should be carried out in a way that safeguards both the UK and EU markets while ensuring public safety.
1.5	Environmental Health Officers within Northern Ireland District Councils are responsible for regulation of product safety matters, including some construction products. Officers undertake activities to support businesses to raise awareness of statutory requirements and to help businesses comply. Activity can involve market surveillance of goods being placed on the market, product inspections and sampling, and action to deal with non-compliant or unsafe goods. Building Control are responsible for ensuring compliance with Building Regulations.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the draft responses, as attached in Appendices (1) and (2), to the above consultations for submission to The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Grenfell Tower tragedy in June 2017, led to a devastating loss of life and laid bare systemic failures in the mechanisms designed to safeguard homes and the built environment. The tragedy revealed a pervasive crisis in the UK construction products regulatory system. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry, alongside independent reviews revealed

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p>a construction products regulatory system that demonstrably failed to safeguard public safety.</p> <p>Construction Products Reform White Paper (Consultation closing date 20th May 2026)</p> <p>The Construction Products Reform White Paper responds to a previous Green paper consultation process and outlines a programme of reforms that the UK Government states are essential for public safety, critical to unlocking investment and economic growth, reducing trade friction and boosting productivity, and to the delivery of high-quality homes, other buildings and infrastructure.</p> <p>The reforms being proposed across the construction products regulatory framework include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory requirements when placing a construction product on the market • Additional measures to enhance the regulatory framework • Enhanced product information and transparency • Digital solutions for enhanced product information • Strengthening testing and certification • Improved enforcement mechanisms • Strengthening route to redress • Sustainability and environmental considerations • Accountability and competence • Setting the path to implementation <p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared by Officers from both City Protection (Consumer Product Safety Team) and Building Control is attached in Appendix 1. The Council's draft response highlights key considerations to promote safety while also recognising the regulatory landscape in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>General Safety Requirement for Construction Products (Consultation closing date 20th May 2026)</p> <p>The Consultation on the General Safety Requirement for Construction Products seeks views on proposals to expand the current construction products regulatory regime. This will introduce a general safety requirement (GSR) for currently unregulated construction products requiring that construction products placed on the market are safe and will establish specific obligations for businesses. The regulations will also provide enforcement powers to the national regulator for construction products.</p> <p>This consultation complements the reforms to construction products regulation detailed in The Construction Products Reform White Paper and sets out the introduction of a proportionate risk-based general safety requirement (GSR) which will operate alongside UK construction products regulation and require that construction products placed on the UK market are safe. The consultation states that this will provide reassurance to consumers and residents and will give confidence to developers and the sector as a whole that the products they use are safe.</p> <p>Under a GSR, manufacturers will be required to assess safety risks connected to the intended use and the normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use of the product and take proportionate action to eliminate or control such risks. Importers and distributors (including merchants) will also be subject to obligations to support product safety.</p>
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<p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p>	<p>Key proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandatory risk assessment • product information • labelling and traceability • record keeping • storage and transportation • obligations for importers and distributors (including merchants) • monitoring safety issues <p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared which indicates broad support for the proposals, however comments are provided in respect of product labelling to highlight potential deficiency in the proposed approach, together with suggested improvements</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None. The Councils regulatory functions in this field are current covered within existing service budgets.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Response to the consultation on the General Safety Requirements for Construction Products</p> <p>Appendix 2: Response to the Construction Products Reform White Paper</p>