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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

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Dear Mr Haigh,

Thank you for your report dated 17 November under regulations 8 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

I was very sorry to read of the tragic deaths of Riley Holt, Keegan Unitt, Tilly-Rose Unitt and Olly Unitt in Stafford on 5th February 2019. Any accidental death is upsetting, but the untimely deaths of four children is unbearable.

The Government are committed to bringing about the biggest change in building safety for a generation. Part of that programme of work is a full technical review of the standards that support building regulations the important issues of smoke alarms and sprinklers will, of course, be considered as part of that review.

I understand that the specific issue of smoke alarms waking children was considered by the relevant technical committee at the British Standards Institute and that this was taken into account in an amendment to BS 5839-6 issued this year.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP