



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

The Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP
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Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report of 27 July 2022. I'm deeply sorry to hear of Kane Davidson's death and my sympathies are with his family. I am of course reminded of two similar tragic incidents that occurred in the last few years. I take the health and safety of all people, and children in particular, very seriously and therefore thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Having considered this issue extremely carefully, however, I am not of the view that new legal requirements on the private rented sector will achieve the outcomes we desire – namely the removal of dangerous looped blind cords from all residential accommodation as soon as possible. This is an issue that affects people in homes of all tenures, not just private renters.

Instead, I believe that campaigns to raise awareness of this issue are the key. This is why my department has supported the work done by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), who have responsibility for regulation of the safety of consumer products like window blinds. The Government, through OPSS, continue to fund the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to raise awareness of safety risks, including the importance of noting warnings and following safety instructions where they are included.

RoSPA are leading a campaign, supported by the Government, to highlight the potential dangers of looped blind cords, particularly among families with small children. Their 'Make It Safe' campaign along with safety information is available at <https://www.rosipa.com/campaigns-fundraising/current/blind-cord>. My officials have worked with their colleagues at OPSS to further publicise this campaign, through our newsletters to landlords and local authorities and our suite of guides for private rented sector landlords and tenants (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-how-to-guides>) that cover safety in rented properties.

I will provide my full support to reviewing these campaigns and have asked my officials to consider how to strengthen their reach so that this message is seen and understood by everyone, including tenants, landlords and their agents. I hope that this letter assures you that the government takes this matter very seriously.

RT HON SIMON CLARKE MP
Secretary of State for Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities