EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Financial Assistance (Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) Remediation Fund) (Private Residential Properties over 18m) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

S.R. 2021 No. 252

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Finance to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by section 1(2) of the Financial Assistance (Northern Ireland) Act 2009 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. On 8 July 2021, the Executive approved DoF to undertake a public call for building owners to confirm the presence of Unsafe ACM Cladding on their buildings of height 18m+ and to establish a £1m ACM remediation fund for replacement of the cladding..

3. Background

3.1. The Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower Fire found that the Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding system was a key element in contributing to the spread of the fire around the envelope of the building.

4. Consultation

4.1. The Executive has been consulted on the urgent need for remediation of Unsafe ACM Cladding on private properties over 18m in height and has agreed for a fund to be established for remediation.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. An equality impact assessment is not considered to be necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered to be necessary as there will be no costs or savings on businesses, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector. Funding will only be provided for the costs to replace Unsafe ACM cladding.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There is no data source on the number of private residential buildings over 18m which have external Unsafe ACM cladding systems here. Informal research has identified one private residential building over 18m which requires replacement of Unsafe ACM Cladding. A public call for evidence will be published seeking evidence of other buildings.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Statutory Rule is deemed to comply with the requirements of section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act.

9. EU Implications

9.1. The Statutory Rule deals with fire safety risk to citizens and does not have any human rights implications, and is compatible with EU law.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Similar funds have been established in England and the other devolved administrations.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.