

FAQs

Q. What type of cladding and insulation is on the building at the Cancer Centre at Guy's?

- A. The majority of the Cancer Centre is covered in glass panels. However, around 15% of the total surface area consists of aluminium composite material (ACM), and these panels cover the insulation on concrete columns and floor slabs - see image below.

Q. Is this the same type of cladding and insulation that was used at Grenfell Tower?

- A. We cannot know for sure, although a type of ACM is believed to have been used on Grenfell Tower.

Q. What was the result of the tests on the ACM panels from the Cancer Centre?

- A. A sample from the Cancer Centre was sent to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and subsequently failed their combustibility test.

Testing of similar panels by BRE led to new advice from the [Department for Communities and Local Government \(DCLG\) advice](#) which was published last week (2 August). We are now implementing this advice and are making plans to carry out remedial work, including the removal of ACM panels.

Q. Why has this only been identified now?

- A. In common with all NHS trusts, we were asked by NHS Improvement to identify any aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding on buildings over two storeys following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower.

Our initial investigation, which included looking at Guy's Tower, did not find any cladding of concern. However, further, more detailed checks on our buildings identified rain screen panels on the Cancer Centre which we suspected included composite materials.

Q. Is the Cancer Centre safe for patients, visitors and staff to remain in?

- A. Since receiving the initial result from the BRE test, we have sought expert advice, including from our own fire officers and the London Fire Brigade (LFB). The advice confirms that the building is safe for continued occupation (including the inpatients in the HCA Healthcare part of the Cancer Centre) because of the extensive fire protection systems in place.

The Cancer Centre, which opened in September 2016, is designed to the highest standards and includes full fire detection systems, sprinklers throughout, integral firefighting equipment, is designed for both horizontal and vertical evacuation, and has two fire escapes.

Q. What additional fire safety checks have been carried out at the Cancer Centre since the Grenfell fire?

- A. Trust fire officers have reviewed and updated the Fire Risk Assessment that was completed when the building opened, taking account of the new information about the ACM panels. They have also accompanied officers from the London Fire Brigade on two extensive inspections to check fire safety systems, safe escape routes and other fire safety measures.

Q. Will the cladding be removed?

- A. We will carry out remedial work, including the removal of cladding, to ensure that we comply with the new Government (DCLG) advice; to reassure our patients, staff and the public; and to make sure that the Cancer Centre continues to reflect the highest safety standards.

This will be done as quickly as possible in a planned and measured way, with work likely to start this autumn. The safety of our patients, visitors and staff continues to be our highest priority.

Q. What measures will be taken to ensure the building is safe from fire until the cladding is replaced?

A. We have checked fire escapes and passageways are clear and tested all white goods since the Grenfell fire. We also regularly test fire alarms, emergency lights and fire safety equipment.

Q. What about the cladding on Guy's Tower?

A. The cladding on Guy's Tower is made of solid aluminium, not ACM, and we have received advice that this is safe and that no further action is required.

