

Dear Deputy Hourigan

In response to Parliamentary Question Ref No: 14659/20. Please find below a response from the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB).

With kind regards

To ask the Minister for Health if phenolic foam insulation materials of Euroclass B, s1, d0 will be used in the ventilated façade of the national children's hospital.

DoH Response

The NPHDB has statutory responsibility for planning, designing, building and equipping the new children's hospital and I have referred your question to the NPHDB for direct reply.

NPHDB Response

The health and safety of the future patients, staff and visitors of the new children's hospital is the foremost priority of the NPHDB at all times. The construction of the new children's hospital is fully compliant with the Building Regulations, Health Technical Memorandum 05-02, BR 135/BS 8414 and the granted Fire Certificate for the project. This compliance has been validated by the Project's independent expert fire advisors. The new children's hospital is also a fully sprinklered building and the specified fire prevention measures exceed those set out in the standards noted.

Phenolic Insulation, encapsulated within vertical and horizontal fire cavity barriers, is currently specified in the design for the granite rainscreen cladding system for the lower façade of the new children's hospital. This façade system is certified as fully compliant based on full scale fire testing of this system, appropriate to a building of the scale of the new children's hospital.

The remainder of the specified façade systems use mineral fibre insulation.

We are aware that this phenolic material is being discussed as part of the ongoing Grenfell Inquiry. We are closely monitoring the evidence and outcomes of the Inquiry which is currently focusing primarily on the marketing and use of insulation products within façade systems where appropriate full scale fire testing had not been completed. We will continue to monitor with interest and will ensure that, only appropriate and safe façade systems are used within construction.

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