



Our Ref: PQ 63866/25
PQ 63867/25
PQ 63868/25
PQ 63873/25

25th November 2025

Mr. Ken O'Flynn T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Dear Ken,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions listed for answer on 18th November 2025 which required additional time to prepare a reply. Please find below a response to the questions:

PQ 63866/25: To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment with regard to a product (details supplied); the reason this product is not currently recognised or recommended by Home Bond despite its certification and domestic use.

Details Supplied: *CEM Rock®, which holds A1 non-combustible classification and is certified to EN 13501-1 and EN 1365 standards and has a track record of use in Ireland*

PQ 63868/25: To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment the criteria and evaluation process HomeBond, in consultation with the Department, employs to determine which construction products are accepted or promoted within the Irish market; and the reason certain products that are either non-tested or rated lower than A1 appear to receive promotion while genuinely certified Irish products (details supplied) do not.

Details Supplied: *such as CEM-Rock*

Reply:

In respect of PQ 63866/25 and 63867/25, HomeBond is a private limited insurance company, providing insurance for new homes built in the State. According to its website it is underwritten by HSB Engineering Insurance Ltd, which is part of the Munich RE Group. My department does not have any role in determining what actuarial data insurance companies rely on or what products they opt to recognise or recommend.

PQ 63868/25: To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment in light of recent concerns regarding fire safety and defective materials in housing construction, the assurance he can give that A1-rated materials (details supplied) are being objectively assessed and fairly considered for specification in both public and private housing schemes.

Details Supplied: CEM-Rock -

Reply:

Responsibility for ensuring that A1 rated (non-combustible) materials are objectively assessed and fairly considered for specification is shared among several entities within the regulatory framework, primarily resting with the designers, builders, and owners of the buildings, overseen by local Building Control Authorities.

The designers, builders, and owners of buildings have the primary legal responsibility to ensure that all materials used comply with the relevant Irish Building Regulations. This includes selecting materials suitable for their intended use and ensuring they meet the required performance levels (e.g., A1 fire rating) as per the Building Regulations and associated Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs).

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) does not have responsibility for preparing or enforcing the Irish Building Regulations or the accompanying Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs). Its role is a technical and supportive one. The NSAI as the national standardisation body for Ireland, develops, publishes, and promotes a wide range of written standards (Irish, European, and international) for products, services, and processes, including those relevant to the construction sector.

The TGDs often refer to these NSAI-published standards (e.g., Irish Standards (I.S.) or harmonised European Standards (EN)) as a means of providing guidance on how to comply with the high-level requirements of the Building Regulations in practice. Adherence to the methods outlined in a TGD, including the standards referenced within them, is generally accepted as evidence of compliance.

Should any amendment to the Building Regulations be required to take account of fire safety requirements, this should be addressed to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). DHLGH is the government department responsible for developing and publishing the national Building Regulations and the accompanying TGDs. These documents set out the legal requirements and acceptable methods for achieving compliance, including fire safety requirements (TGD Part B).

PQ 63873/25: To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment given the Government's stated objectives of promoting safe, sustainable and innovative building materials, the specific measures his Department plans to introduce to support Irish-developed and Irish-tested products that demonstrably enhance fire safety, energy efficiency and carbon reduction, such as (details supplied).

Details Supplied: CEM-Rock

Reply:

My department is actively working on policy to support the decarbonisation of the industrial base within Ireland, as outlined in Ireland's Climate Action Plans, the manufacture of cement is a significant proportion of these emissions. With this intention my department has:

- published public procurement guidance, which was issued to all Government departments and Local Authorities, to enable the procurement of lower carbon cement and concrete for public projects commencing design from 1st September 2024.
- engaged directly with the sector to understand their work in reducing its emissions and the department chairs the cross-governmental 'Cement and Construction Sector Decarbonisation Working Group'.
- engaged with our National Standards Authority (NSAI), and its concrete standards committee, to better understand the standards process in Ireland and the progress of revision of standards, such as the concrete standard EN206.

I understand the important role of standards in delivering a safe and dependable product, but also in allowing products which have a lower environmental impact, whether this is lower carbon cement blends and concrete, but also timber and wood products. I encourage industry to continue to innovate in this area and engage early with the NSAI to better understand the routes to which innovative products can be used in construction projects in Ireland. Further

decarbonisation opportunities and lower carbon products are emerging, and the Department is encouraged to see the sector making progress in this area.

In addition, in September 2024, my department announced €5 million in additional funding for Construct Innovate, Ireland's National Research Centre for Construction Technology and Innovation, for housing-focused research. The programme of housing research facilitated by this extra funding is driving innovation, sustainable practices, and efficient construction methods in residential construction. It is also helping to enhance affordability and quality in delivering housing as well as increasing standardisation. The Centre's vision is to make Ireland a global research and innovation leader for sustainable construction and built environment technology. My department also funds Enterprise Ireland's Built to Innovate programme which supports increasing productivity and innovation of Irish companies in the residential construction sector with a view to reducing the cost of construction and making construction more sustainable.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Burke T.D.

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment