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Communities &  
Local Government

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London  
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Rt Hon [redacted] MP  
Minister of State [redacted]

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Our Ref: [redacted]  
Your Ref: [redacted]

17<sup>02</sup> February 2020

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 21 January to [redacted] on behalf of your constituent, David [redacted]  
Ebee Brightspark [redacted] I about electrical safety in the private  
rented sector. I am replying as Minister of [redacted]

I am pleased to hear that Ebee welcomes the introduction of the Electrical Safety  
Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020. These important regulations  
will help to drive up standards across the private rented sector, reducing injuries and deaths due to  
electric shocks and fires caused by electric faults.

Mr Ebee raises the matter of assessing whether an electrician is qualified and competent.  
When the Regulations come into force, we will publish guidance for landlords. They can use this  
guidance when employing inspectors and testers to ensure the person they are employing has the  
correct level of qualification and competence required.

The Government did not want to excessively burden the electrical safety industry by requiring  
inspectors and testers to join a competent persons scheme if they do not wish to and are confident  
they have the necessary qualifications and competence. Instead, industry will be encouraged to  
establish competent persons schemes, but membership will not be compulsory.

If an inspector and tester is not a member of a competent person scheme, an alternative would be  
to sign a checklist certifying their competence, including their experience, whether they have  
adequate insurance and hold a qualification covering the relevant version of the wiring regulations  
and the periodic inspection, testing and certification of electrical installations.

I hope that we can count on your support as these important Regulations, made via an affirmative  
statutory instrument, pass through the House.

Thank you again for your letter.