

Edited article from the Glasgow Herald April 2026

This is an edited recent article from the Glasgow Herald which gives some of the background to the Scottish Government's Cladding Remediation Programme and an update on progress so far:

Last year it was estimated that between 1,260 and 1,450 of the residential buildings in Scotland which are 11 metres or over may require repairs to external wall systems that over life-safety fire risks. So far, as of the end February just 16 Single Building Assessments (SBAs) were completed and all identified recommendations for remediation work. While detailed safety assessments were underway in 139 buildings some 938 were identified as likely to qualify for government funding for a full assessment, while 824 had been deemed ineligible.

The Scottish Government's Cladding Remediation Programme was set up in the wake of Grenfell to safeguard residents and homeowners by addressing the fire safety risk to human life that is directly or indirectly created or exacerbated by a building's external wall cladding system. It was established in 2021 following a ministerial working group's recommendations five years ago. It was to help deal with the consequential negative impacts which can exist in relation to the buying, selling and re-mortgaging of flats in Scotland. At the time of Grenfell, cladding regulations were already stricter in Scotland than the rest of the UK, due to legislation that had been introduced in 2005.

The programme is under fire for failing to act quickly enough. Nearly nine years after the Grenfell Tower tragedy, by February 2026, 10 buildings in Scotland have had emergency safety measures put in place after being judged an "immediate risk to human life" — yet not a single block has been declared fully repaired under the national cladding programme, nearly nine years after the Grenfell Tower Fire.

Under the cladding remediation programme, each building must go through a detailed fire safety check to determine whether its outer walls pose a risk and what work is required. Up to 1500 tower blocks across Scotland may need repairs, but as of the end of February just three were being actively being made safe - just one more than in June last year. The Scottish Tenants' Organisation said the interim measures showed that a lack of action was putting people's lives at risk and called for urgent action. The Scottish Government has failed to remediate any tower blocks in Scotland when in England over hundreds of residential buildings have been safely remediated.