Template letter to your local TD – please adapt this for your own use and let the GAI know if you have sent a letter or email

YOUR ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED

[TD name]

Houses of the Oireachtas

Leinster House

Kildare St

Dublin 2

D02 XR20

Ireland

Dear ……..

I am writing to ask for your urgent assistance please in a matter relating to fire safety regulation.

We are trying everything we can to ensure the Government genuinely understands the hidden problems arising from one proposed change in building regulation being considered right now, and the serious impacts it will have on our business and the livelihoods of our employees in your constituency.

This may seem like a very technical issue, but it directly affects door hardware / architectural ironmongery businesses like ours which have worked for over [X] years to advise customers on fire safety and the correct choice of fire door products and door hardware to keep us all safe in the buildings we use every day.

We strongly support any changes in regulation which seeks to increase levels of fire safety and increase protections for residents and building users. But one specific consultation, entitled [Public Consultation on the Review of Part B (Fire Safety) of the Building Regulations](https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/1ed7c-public-consultation-on-the-review-of-part-b-fire-safety-of-the-building-regulations/) was published on 20 January 2023, and hidden in that consultation is a proposal with a disproportionately serious impact on our industry.

It relates to the wholesale removal of a British Standard (BS 476) from the list of compliance criteria for timber doors for new construction projects. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage intends to remove the national classification system for construction products – BS 476 – and instead require classification to the European Standard EN 13501.

Should this become part of the new Technical Guidance Document B of the Building Regulations later this year as ha, the impact will mean that we will not be able to specify or sell a significant proportion / most / any of our current products without a huge investment in new fire tests.

The multi-million-pound cost of retesting thousands of products is among a number of factors that would create competitive advantages for large global door manufacturers at the expense of specialist Irish hardware businesses like ours.

This would in turn lead to a substantial loss of Irish jobs and expertise. Price rises as a result of these changes also introduce the risk of value engineering and reduced specification – and therefore greater safety risk – on fire doors.

[Include additional points about the specific impact on your business, likely costs to customers, future job security for staff and impact on investment plans etc]

BS 476 – or more specifically, part 22 of that standard – has successfully delivered robust safety assurances for timber door users for many years and is still widely recognised as fit for purpose. Getting rid of BS 476 does nothing to make fire doors any safer or deliver any meaningful life safety benefits.

**I would be grateful if you could ask the Government to retain the acceptance of classification according to BS 476 specifically for timber doors.**

It’s a simple and highly targeted amendment to the current proposals which would maintain safety standards and avoid serious consequences for our business, customers and employees.

If you would find it helpful, there is [more information here](https://www.gai.org.uk/GAI/News/News-Items/2023/GAI-challenges-UK-Governments-fire-door-testing-proposals.aspx) from the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.

As a local employer in your constituency, we welcome your support. We would also be delighted if you ever wanted to know more about what we do, our role in the local community and the issues we face in the current political and economic environment.

I can be contacted at [email / phone number] ……………

Yours sincerely…….