



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

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Our Ref: 3371795

25 July 2017

Dear Resident,

This letter will also be published on gov.uk

As I write this, it has been nearly six weeks since the awful tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire. Over these weeks, my colleagues and I have written to you with our assurances, updates and information from my Department and the Grenfell Response team. I have maintained that I would give my assurances to you, in writing, as needed.

Communications and engagement

Going forward, I am proposing that the Minister for the Police and Fire Service, Nick Hurd, and I write to you every two weeks, updating you on everything we are working on for you, as well as providing you with a direct form of reassurance from the government. I am conscious that these letters may not be reaching everyone so my Department will be ensuring each letter is:

- printed and handed out to addresses through key workers and available at The Curve
- emailed to the community group leaders who have already volunteered to cascade on our behalf
- published on gov.uk/dclg
- published on grenfellresponse.org.uk, where you currently read your newsletter updates

These can also be emailed to you directly. If you would like this to happen or are having any problems receiving these letters, please let my Department know by emailing GrenfellCorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk

For those concerned about providing their contact information, rest assured it will only be used for sending you these updates.

This week sees the last of the scheduled community meetings held by the Grenfell Response team – also known as Gold Command. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have attended, voiced their opinions, concerns and questions. It is of the utmost importance that you have opportunities to do this and the Grenfell Response team and my Department will be considering how best we do this in the long-term. We are keen to hear your views on this also, and will be in touch with ways you can feed into these plans.

Housing

This week, I also visited some new permanent homes in Kensington. I am satisfied these are of good quality and ready to move in. As I have said before, a top priority continues to be finding those of you from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk permanent new homes, and my Department is working with a number of developers to secure similar properties to those we have already identified.

Some new homes are now available and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) has published details of how it will allocate these to families. I have enclosed this information at the back of this letter for you – it is also available on [RBKC's website](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all, that nobody will be forced to accept any home, and the council will continue to make offers as long as it is reasonable and practical to do so. The council will be arranging meetings with you, through your keyworkers, to explain these processes – as well as answering any questions you may have.

The Recovery Taskforce

This week, I have also appointed members of the Recovery Taskforce that I have put in place. They will be situated at the RBKC offices in Kensington and will be making sure that the council is able to deal with the longer term recovery work. The services currently being managed by the Grenfell Response team, in a joint effort from people across London councils, government and the voluntary sector, will be picked up by RBKC gradually.

I am pleased to share the names of the experienced individuals who will make up this taskforce:

- Aftab Chughtai
(Chair of West Midlands Police Independent Advisory Group).
- Javed Khan
(Chief Executive of Barnardo's charity).

- Jane Scott, OBE
(Leader of Wiltshire County Council).
- Chris Wood
(Partner at Altair Housing and former director of housing at three London Boroughs).

They will report directly to me and be independent of the council itself. Their responsibility covers everything related to the recovery but I have asked their main focus to be ensuring RBKC can effectively:

- communicate and engage with you all on long-term recovery plans
- rehome you, and consider further housing services in the borough
- put in place long-term regeneration plans for the site, considering your wishes as they do so

I envisage them to be in place for however long is necessary to get the job done – in reality, this is likely to mean for at least one year.

Accessing support and assistance

As you are hopefully already aware, we have put in place a more long-term assistance centre at The Curve, which opened last Thursday. The centre can be found at 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP. This is a safe space for people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire to meet up and continue to access services that have previously been available at the Westway Centre.

The centre is open from 10am to 8pm everyday and provides support and advice from a wide range of organisations including the NHS, UK Visas and Immigration, HM Passport Office, Jobcentre Plus, the Post Office, Adults' and Children's social care and housing assistance. Other services include emotional support, a crèche for children, food and toiletries area and an area to place orders for new clothes.

I know there is a journey ahead of us to support you in rebuilding your lives, and to understand how such a devastating tragedy could have happened in the first place. My Department will continue to work with you and I will write to you for as long as needed.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP