



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

15 August 2017

Dear Sir Martin

Thank you for your letter of 10 August, advising me of the outcome of the consultation and providing me with your recommendations for establishing the terms of reference for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

I am grateful to you for carrying out the consultation. The number of responses received shows consultation has been an important process, and it was clearly right to extend the process in the way you did to allow all those that wanted to contribute to do so.

The terms of reference you set out in your letter address the crucial issues of the cause and spread of the fire; the design, construction and refurbishment of Grenfell Tower; the scope and adequacy of the relevant regulations, legislation and guidance; the actions of the local authority and other bodies before the tragedy; the response of the London Fire Brigade to the fire and the response of central and local government in the aftermath. I am therefore happy to accept your recommendations for the Inquiry's terms of reference without any amendment, and to announce an immediate start date of today, 15 August 2017.

The terms of reference do not address some of the broader social issues that some people have called for the Inquiry to consider. I understand your concern about the suitability of considering such broader issues in a judge-led Inquiry and the urgent need for the Inquiry to complete its work as soon as possible, so that essential lessons can be learnt. This mitigates against very broad terms of reference and I accept your reasons for focussing the Inquiry in the way you have.

Government has already announced independent reviews into building regulations and fire safety and these reviews will no doubt wish to keep you up to date with developments, which will be able to feed into the work of your Inquiry. Government will now consider how best to address the issues of social housing you have raised. What is clear is that there are a number of concerns, which have gone unheard for too long. The Housing Minister, Alok Sharma, will personally meet and hear from as many social housing tenants as possible both in the immediate area around Grenfell Tower, but also across the country, to help build up a comprehensive picture of some of the immediate issues facing tenants, as well as to identify any common concerns that must inform any national approach. There will be a further announcement on this work shortly.

Like you, I hope that as many people as possible will participate in this Inquiry so that you gain as accurate a picture as possible and that the lessons are learned to prevent a similar tragedy happening in the future. As you will know, the Government has already announced a 12 month amnesty to allow those who have been directly affected by the fire to be granted a temporary period of lawful residence in the UK, which will give them a firm legal footing to ensure they can access ongoing support, including social assistance, local authority housing support or any welfare benefits they may be eligible for.

I am grateful for the work that you and your team have put in to the consultation, and I am also grateful to the many people, professional organisations, charities, trade unions and others who contributed to the consultation, in particular the former residents of Grenfell Tower and the families of those who died – it is very important that their views are taken into account by the Inquiry.

Your sincerely
Reed J.

The Right Honourable Sir Martin Moore-Bick