



Department for Communities and Local Government

Expert panel Terms of Reference

The Grenfell Tower Expert Panel will provide independent advice to the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through the immediate response to the Grenfell fire. It does not seek to duplicate or prejudge the outcomes of the public inquiry and policy investigation, but will help government ascertain if any immediate actions need to be taken in light of the Grenfell Tower fire, to ensure safety for the public.

The panel will:

- Focus on providing advice on questions set by the SoS relating to fire and building safety in high rise buildings, and in particular how to ensure the public are safe in their homes and public buildings.
- Work with government consider the results of initial screening tests of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) panels of social housing, private rented housing, and public buildings, and to consider any further actions needed as information is received from the Grenfell Tower fire investigation.
- Consider whether there are any immediate actions that should be taken to ensure the safety of existing high rise buildings.
- Engage other experts – to be agreed with DCLG - as required to ensure a responsive and dynamic approach, as developments arise.

Where the panel's work covers regulation and building control processes, the panel will feed the following considerations into the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety:

- Whether there are any immediate changes or clarifications required to existing regulations, and provide advice on possible changes, including making recommendations on the use of specific materials.
- Whether the current process for assuring fire and building safety in high rise buildings, including through the building control process, is fit for purpose, and whether any immediate changes are required.

Areas out of scope:

- The panel will not decide government policy – it will provide advice to SoS DCLG.
- The panel will not cut across the public inquiry or police investigation into the Grenfell fire - it will address any immediate steps that need to be taken ahead of any interim reports or findings of the inquiry.
- The panel will not provide specific advice on remedial actions to individual owners of buildings which are found to have failed safety tests. Public authorities and private building owners will continue to take advice from the fire services on the most appropriate actions to take to ensure fire safety in each case. Where the

panel has more general recommendations in relation to remedial actions, it will recommend them to government in the usual way.

How the panel will work:

- The panel will be established for an initial three month period, after which it will be reviewed, with the potential to extend its duration if required. The first meeting will be held w/c 26 June 2017.
- Information will be shared with the panel from all of the information gathering exercises government is undertaking. Any information that the panel gathers through its own means should be shared with government, to inform policy development now and in the future.
- The panel will work with government to agree what information will be made public about their recommendations.

Panel membership:

The Panel will be chaired by Sir Ken Knight, former London Fire Commissioner and former Government Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser.

Other core members of the panel will be:

- Dr Peter Bonfield, Chief Executive of the Building Research Establishment;
- Roy Wilsher, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council; and
- Amanda Clack, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a Partner at EY.

Annex 2: The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.