



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alistair Watters

Director, Grenfell Site & Programme

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

3 July 2020

Dear all,

I am writing to you, as bereaved families and former residents of Grenfell Tower, to tell you about upcoming safety works that will soon be taking place in the Tower. As you're aware, the government took ownership of the Tower in July 2019. We are responsible for, and committed to, keeping it safe and secure until a decision is made about its future, and about a fitting memorial to remember those whose lives were lost.

I have included a factsheet that outlines these essential works and why we are starting them now. The works will be carried out in phases over the coming year and will mostly consist of:

- From later this month, early preparatory works will take place. This includes the delivery of equipment on site and the removal of some large items from communal areas to make space for the equipment.
- From September, the removal of heavy and damaged items to reduce weight on the building. This will include the removal of unreturnable items from individual flats, such as sinks, white goods and fixtures and fittings including suspended ceilings and pipes.
- From later in the autumn, the removal of asbestos – also to reduce weight – and to ensure the continued safety of local residents as well as those working in the building. We are working with a specialist contractor to ensure public safety throughout the removal process.
- After this, the installation of new 'props', to supplement those already there and to ensure the Tower's stability until a decision is made about its future.

I understand that these works are sensitive and I want to be open about why they are taking place, to answer your questions and to hear any concerns you might have about them. I want to emphasise that:


- The Tower is stable and safe. These essential works are about ensuring its continued stability until a decision is taken about its future. That decision will only be

taken in close discussion with you, the local community and independent experts.

- In the immediate months after the tragedy, the independent site management team worked with a specialist contractor to remove and return personal items that were retrievable, re-usable or purposeful for former residents. That process has now been completed.
- These works will not interfere with the process of justice and accountability. The coroner, the police and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry have all confirmed that they have the evidence they need from the Tower and that they are content for the works to begin.
- The development of ideas and plans for the future memorial is being led by the independent Memorial Commission. You can contact them and sign up for their updates on their website: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk

The Grenfell site management team is available for individual conversations with all former households from the Tower, or bereaved family members, to provide details about how these works will affect individual flats. You can get in touch with them by emailing GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or by phoning **0303 444 0011**. We have also made the Dedicated Service and local health services aware that these works will be taking place and they can support you to get in touch with us if you have any questions.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Watters', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alistair Watters