



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

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Government**

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This letter will be published on gov.uk. If you would like this to be emailed to you directly, please contact GrenfellCorrespondence@communities.gov.uk.

Dear All,

As we approach three years since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, I wanted to write and offer again my heartfelt condolences at what I know is a difficult time of year.

This year may feel even more painful, as the ways in which you come together and support one another will be restricted as a result of the pandemic, COVID-19. With that in mind, I want to leave you in no doubt that the lives that were lost and changed forever on that terrible night will never be forgotten, and that our work as government continues unabated.

Over recent weeks, we have seen the same great courage, resilience and exceptional generosity as in the aftermath of the tragedy. I know that many of you continue to work tirelessly to make sure that those who are vulnerable are supported during the pandemic. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the government for all that you and others have contributed.

My colleagues across government remain as committed as ever to ensuring that such a tragedy can never happen again. We share your desire for truth and justice and are not waiting for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's conclusions before we implement some of the biggest changes to fire and building safety regulations in a generation.

Nick Hurd has been appointed as Independent Adviser to the Prime Minister on Grenfell, and he will continue to ensure that your voices go to the heart of decision making at local and national levels. As a government, we know there is a lot more work to do, and the enclosed update sets out the next steps in our response.

I am resolute that the legacy of the Grenfell Tower tragedy will be lasting change and a safer country for us all.

Although my Ministerial colleagues and I cannot be with you in person as in previous years, our thoughts remain with you at this time and we will join you virtually as we remember those who were lost.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick." The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP

Grenfell Tower tragedy: three years on

Update from the Government at the three year point

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

The government is committed to getting to the truth about what happened at Grenfell Tower and why, and the independent Inquiry is a vital part of this.

Phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry focused on how the fire started and spread, and the emergency response. It concluded with the publication of the Phase 1 report on 30 October 2019. The government accepts, in principle, all the recommendations that Sir Martin Moore-Bick made in that report for central government. The government response, published on 21 January 2020, sets out how we will develop the existing programme of building safety reforms to implement these recommendations as soon as possible. On 2 June, I published a statement, updating Parliament on our progress at turning those commitments into real and lasting change to building and fire safety.

While Phase 2 of the Inquiry has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ambition is for hearings to re-begin in July. Nothing is more important than keeping people safe. As the Inquiry continues its work, we will ensure that any urgent public safety issues that it uncovers are immediately dealt with.

Building safety

In April this year, I confirmed the biggest change in building safety for a generation when I published the response to the final report of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety Review, led by Dame Judith Hackitt.

I have made clear that building safety continues to be a priority for this government, and I am committed to making sure that residents are safe in their homes now, and in the future. The remediation of unsafe buildings should continue throughout the unprecedented fight against COVID-19. I, along with city mayors and regional leaders, have pledged my commitment to ensuring that vital safety work can continue where the necessary social distancing rules are being followed.

The Government will soon be publishing the draft Building Safety Bill for scrutiny before it is introduced in Parliament. This Bill will put in place new and enhanced regulatory regimes for building safety and construction products, and ensure residents have a stronger voice in the system.

At the heart of our reforms to building safety is the new Building Safety Regulator, which we are now establishing within the Health and Safety Executive, as set out in our response to the 'Building a Safer Future' consultation. The new regulator will be responsible for a stricter regulatory regime for higher risk buildings, as well as providing better oversight of safety and performance across all buildings, and increasing the competence of those working on building safety.

Fire safety

Following the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's Phase 1 report, the Queen's Speech in December 2019 set out the government's plans to introduce a Fire Safety Bill. The Bill was introduced in the House of Commons in March and has received cross party support.

The Bill clarifies the scope of the Fire Safety Order to ensure that those responsible for fire safety in all multi-occupied residential buildings in England and Wales must take account of external walls and flat entrance doors as part of their assessment of the building's fire risks. The Bill provides a firm foundation upon which to bring forward secondary legislation to implement the recommendations made in the Inquiry Phase 1 report that require further changes to the law. A consultation on these further legislative measures is due to be published shortly.

Alongside this we continue to work with the London Fire Brigade and the National Fire Chiefs Council to help drive forward the required changes and improvements identified in the Inquiry's Phase 1 report. This includes working with the National Fire Chiefs Council and Fire and Rescue Services to deliver a 'Building Risk Review Programme' that will ensure that all high-rise residential buildings of 18m or above are inspected or reviewed by the end of 2021.

Social housing

I want to transform the experience of tenants living in social housing. Later this year, I will bring forward a Social Housing White Paper that will set out further measures to empower tenants and support the continued supply of social homes. This will include measures to provide greater redress, better regulation and improve the quality of social housing. We have engaged with key stakeholders, as part of its preparation. I recognise it has taken some time but, as a once in a generation opportunity to deliver real change, it is important that we get this right.

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission

We continue to make progress towards a fitting and lasting memorial to those who lost their lives. In July 2019, in recognition of concerns about the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea having a decision-making role in relation to the Grenfell Tower site, the government took ownership and is keeping the site safe and secure. Over the past year, the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission, made up of ten community representatives chosen by the Grenfell community, has been established.

The independent co-chairs, Thelma Stober and Michael Lockwood, were selected by the community representatives in February 2020. The Commission continues to meet remotely and, from this autumn, will undertake a range of engagement activities to develop a community-led proposal for a fitting memorial and decide how the memorial site will be owned and managed in the future. If you would like to receive regular updates on the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission, please contact GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk or visit www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk.

How to get in touch or find out more information

- **For the site management team:**
Email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone **0303 444 0011**
- **New telephone 'drop-ins' are being trialled every Wednesday until 17 June, 10am–12noon:**
Phone 0303 444 9086

This update is available online at www.gov.uk.