



HM Government

Rt Hon James Brokenshire
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister for Grenfell Victims

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

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A version of this letter will be published on gov.uk. If you would like this to be emailed to you directly, please email grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Dear All,

We wanted to take the opportunity to write to you as you, your families and your community prepare to mark two years since the Grenfell Tower fire.

We continue to be mindful, at this difficult time, of those who lost their loved ones, those who lost their homes and for the community who has been traumatised. We know that nothing can undo the pain. Ensuring you receive the support you need to rebuild your lives remains our highest priority, as well as seeing that nothing like this can ever happen again.

Ongoing Support

The Minister for Grenfell Victims has held numerous meetings with families and individuals affected by the fire over the last two years so that he is able to understand the issues of greatest concern to you and impact decisions accordingly. We wanted to remind you that he remains available to you should you wish to speak to him or his team. You can contact his team at grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gov.uk

The Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust offers a comprehensive range of mental health services, including screening and treatment appointments for trauma in community centres like the Curve or in people's homes. For further information about the help that is available, you can either contact the Curve community centre directly, or call the dedicated NHS response service number, 0800 0234 650, which is open 24 hours a day. Further information can be found at <https://www.grenfell.nhs.uk/>

In addition, the NHS announced an additional £50 million to fund treatment and mental health screening to ensure those affected can get the right treatment in the longer term. To make sure this additional funding works for you, local health partners are working with local community groups to develop and co-design the long-term North Kensington Health Recovery Strategy. Existing services will evolve in response to the changing needs within the community.

Building Safety

Ensuring everyone can feel safe in their homes is of paramount importance. Immediately after the fire we started work to find and make safe buildings with Aluminium Composite

Material (ACM) cladding, like that used on Grenfell Tower, to ensure that all those living in high-rise buildings are safe and feel safe from the risk of fire.

We have now made £600m funding available for the replacement of unsafe ACM cladding on high-rise residential homes. We have banned the use of combustible materials during building work on the external walls of buildings of 18 metres or more high containing flats and hospitals, residential care premises, dormitories in boarding schools and student accommodation.

Hackitt Review

After the fire, we asked Dame Judith Hackitt to conduct an independent review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. She concluded that the building safety system was not fit for purpose and made recommendations to establish a new building safety regulatory framework and achieve a culture change to build and maintain safe buildings.

We agreed with her and committed to take forward the recommendations as part of a fundamental reform of the system. Our consultation, published last Thursday, outlines how we propose to change the system for high rise residential buildings through clearer responsibilities for those building or managing these buildings; a stronger voice in the system and better information for residents; greater oversight by regulators; and tougher enforcement when things go wrong.

The consultation also invites you to share your views on the proposals. You can do so by completing the online survey at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/building-a-safer-future-proposals-for-reform-of-the-building-safety-regulatory-system. Alternatively, you can email your response to the questions in this consultation to: BuildingSafetyConsultation@communities.gov.uk.

Management of the Grenfell Tower site and Memorial Commission

In the coming weeks, we will be taking freehold ownership of the site. We will meet the costs of keeping the site safe and secure until the long-term future has been determined by the community. This will ensure that RBKC takes no role in decisions about the management of the site. This will mean that the Government will make operational decisions, such as on the site's safety, security and access arrangements.

As these arrangements are put in place, the site will continue to be managed by the independent site management team that has been in place since the fire. We will ensure that you are kept fully updated on management of the site, and engaged with any operational decisions.

We understand the importance of the site to you and the rest of the community and so have been clear that the bereaved, survivors and community will decide what happens to it in the long term. Following discussions with community representatives, the intention is to establish a Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission. We have written to you separately to keep you updated on the Memorial Commission.

Environmental Monitoring

On Friday 26 October 2018, we announced that additional environmental checks are to be carried out in and around the Grenfell Tower site. This is to provide reassurance that any

environmental risks to public health will be fully assessed and appropriate action taken. If you have any concerns regarding your health, please contact your GP for an appointment or NHS 111. The local NHS is offering enhanced health checks for any local resident who has been affected by the tragedy, which can be arranged with your GP. Public Health England (PHE) has been monitoring the air quality around Grenfell Tower since June 2017. PHE continues to monitor for pollutants that have both short and long term effects to be sure we know if there is a risk to public health.

We recognise the concerns of the community raised by a study by Professor Anna Stec of the University of Central Lancashire published into environmental contamination in the area surrounding Grenfell Tower. Professor Stec's research states that further analysis is necessary to understand the health risks, which is what we are doing through the additional environmental checks.

Testing started in April, with exploratory sampling having taken place in North Kensington in the week of 3rd June.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

You may be aware that the Prime Minister announced on the 30 May the appointment of two additional panel members to support the Public Inquiry's Chair throughout Phase 2 of the Inquiry. Those two appointments have been confirmed as Professor Nabeel Hamdi and Thouria Istephan, and who will help ensure the Inquiry panel has the diversity of skills and experience necessary for the scope and complexity of issues to be investigated by Phase 2 of the Inquiry's work.

Social Housing Green Paper

We published our Green Paper, "A new deal for social housing" on 14 August 2018. This set out our proposals to ensure that homes are safe and decent, that residents are treated with dignity and respect, and that we have the social housing we need for the future. The Green Paper was informed by engagement with social housing residents. This included 14 engagement events where we heard from almost 1,000 people, as well as 7,000 online responses.

We recognise that the provision of good quality and safe social homes with the right services from landlords relies on a robust regulatory framework. The Green Paper announced our intention to carry out a review of the regulatory framework for social housing to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, reflects changes in the sector, and drives a focus on delivering a good service for residents. Alongside the Green Paper we published a call for evidence which sought views on how the current regulatory framework is operating. We are finalising our response to the Green Paper.



RT HON JAMES BROKENSHIRE MP



RT HON NICK HURD MP