



HM Government

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Nick Hurd MP

Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service

Department for Communities and Local Government

4th Floor, Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

www.gov.uk/home-office

8 August 2017

Dear Resident,

We write to you today, knowing that the situation for many of you is still extremely difficult. We offer this letter, as promised, with some updates and assurances from the government. These letters will continue to be available online and printed for distribution around the community.

Housing

A priority for us continues to be ensuring those from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk who have lost their homes, are able to move into permanent new homes. This will be done as quickly as possible, and within 12 months.

For those who are ready to engage with the process, appointments are taking place, starting with those of you in the ‘first band priority’, and viewings will begin to be arranged over the next few weeks. These are being done in accordance with the council’s [allocations policy](#) that we shared with you in the last letter.

Transition from the Grenfell Response Team to the council

The immediate response has been led by the Grenfell Response team – made up of individuals from several London borough councils, the government and the voluntary sector. This will be slowly transitioned to RBKC. We will update you further, on the plans and timing in our next letter but we do understand your concerns surrounding this transition.

It is of the utmost importance that you continue to have access to the right support and services during this time. We will both be watching the transition closely to ensure you are getting what you need. Of course, the independent Recovery

Taskforce will also be able to support us in this as well.

The Recovery Taskforce

In the last letter, we set out what the independent Recovery Taskforce is there to do. Last week, the members met for the first time. They discussed their role, their priorities and how they will work together to ensure RBKC can do what is needed.

The taskforce heard your concerns regarding their location and members asked that we take this opportunity to inform you of their plans. They will spend time at the council offices to support, guide and challenge – as well as provide assurances to us on the recovery work – but they will also spend time in the community, and in DCLG offices in Westminster.

This will ensure they continue to remain independent, but are also working closely with all involved. The taskforce will be meeting representatives from community groups within the next few weeks and will be in touch directly with community group leaders.

It is vital that they remain independent so they are able to provide the assurances that RBKC are able to fulfil their role in the recovery. They have been asked to provide an interim report by the end of October. However, if they are concerned at any point, they will not hesitate to say so. If they feel they cannot provide the necessary assurances, then as we have said before, all options remain on the table, and further steps could be taken.

Communications and engagement

We are committed to engaging with you throughout this process and will continue to hold surgeries for those of you who wish to bring your concerns directly to us.

It is important to both of us that we understand the range and complexities of issues so that we can both continue to improve government's response to you.

We have also held a number of conversations with the residents of the wider North Kensington community, which has helped us to begin to understand what is needed from us to begin the process of recovery. The conversations we have are likely to change as time goes on but we will make sure that the opportunities for dialogue remain open.

Just as they have done previously, the Grenfell Response team will continue holding community meetings during August. The next meeting is on Wednesday 9 August, at Notting Hill Methodist church, at 6pm.

Thank you to all those who have been attending, voicing their opinions, concerns and questions. It is important to us that you have the opportunities to do this.

We are also grateful to the local volunteers and charities who continue to offer support to many of you, through what has been an incredibly difficult time. They have played a crucial role in getting help and services where they are needed. We are grateful for their efforts.

As we have said before, these letters can also be emailed directly to you if you would prefer. If you would like this to happen, please let us know by emailing GrenfellCorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Wider building safety

You may have heard in the news that an independent review of building regulations and fire safety will take place. Since the tragedy, a large fire safety testing programme has been underway.

The results of this make it clear that we need to further understand how current building regulations and fire safety works, in order to make them as effective as possible in the future.

We appreciate this cannot undo what has already happened, but the government is working hard to ensure it never happens again. As we have said before, the Public Inquiry will be a crucial part of this, and we thank those who have participated in the consultation. It is of the utmost importance that your views are considered in this process, and as we have said before, we are determined to get justice for you all.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

NICK HURD MP