



HM Government

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Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

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

Dear Resident,

We write to you today in the lead up to 100 days since the tragedy of the fire. The images from that terrible night are understandably still with us all.

We are both wholly committed to ensuring that each of you continue to have access to the support you need, at the time you need it. We will continue to meet with you, listen to you, write to you and most importantly, work with you and the council to provide whatever support is needed.

The site and surrounding area

We know many of you are keen to learn what the plans are for the site of the tower, and surrounding area. We understand that Michael Lockwood, Chief Executive of Harrow Council and member of the former Grenfell Response team (also known as Gold Command), has been regularly attending community meetings and meeting with residents from the tower to hear their views.

The top priority for the work has been ensuring the tower is secure and safe. This has been confirmed, not only by the team working on the tower, but by the Health and Safety Executive as well. We are reassured by the measures put in place to ensure the tower continues to remain stable, which do include movement sensors. This means that even if the tower were to move one millimetre, the team would be notified immediately so they can take action.

You might have also noticed a red crane outside the tower. This has been used to remove any loose debris on the outside of the tower, again to ensure safety and

stability for all of you in the local area, especially as we approach the autumn and winter months with higher winds and worsening weather conditions.

In other updates from the team, they have told us that the scaffolding work has started but due to the crime scene, criminal investigation and the stability of the tower, this process will be longer than many of you would like. We do appreciate your frustration regarding this and understand that Michael and his team continue to look to do whatever they possibly can to speed the processes up, without compromising the criminal investigation.

The tower will be covered as the scaffolding is being completed. We were pleased to hear that Michael is going to be engaging with local schools to see if this white cover can be used in a way that the children can project images, or messages on, if that is what you all wish to do.

In a separate matter, we were pleased to hear that over 66,000 possessions have been retrieved from the tower and to hear some feedback from some of you that this has been helpful. We hope those of you who are taking part in this process are also finding that this helps you.

As many of you will have heard from the Metropolitan Police, or have seen in the media, unfortunately some thefts are said to have taken place in the tower. This is extremely disappointing to hear and an investigation is underway. In the meantime, we understand that the police are reacting quickly to ensure increased security measures are in place around the tower.

Housing

We continue to work closely with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) on the rehousing process for you all. We wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate to you that all those who lost their homes in Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk are a part of RBKC's allocations policy.

The policy is available on [RBKC's website](#) and as a reminder it details that as social housing is made available, it will be offered first to residents who have been bereaved as a result of the fire. The priority bands following this are residents with health and care needs, residents with dependent children and then all others.

As you know, viewings are underway and we hope you are finding the online portal to be helpful in making decisions about your new home. We all still want to go at the pace that works for you. We know that none of you want to stay in emergency or temporary accommodation longer than you have to but want to reiterate that nobody will be forced to move until ready, and nobody will be forced into a home you do not find suitable.

Support available

Last week, we met with staff from the NHS trusts who have been instrumental in ensuring a variety of services and advice is available to you, tailored to your needs. We were reassured by the outreach work they have been offering in the community for you and are grateful for their hard work.

We understand from them, that there are a number of routes for you all to access advice and talk through your concerns for yourselves, friends and family members including children. We also understand that they are still expanding and tailoring these services to you as requested through community group leaders. We were reassured by this approach and hope that you are finding the access to everything you need.

As a reminder, as well as outreach staff being available in hotels and community centres, you can also contact the NHS on 0800 0234 650, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Your views on social housing

A few weeks ago, the Housing Minister, Alok Sharma, said he would be listening to your views, concerns, and comments on social housing. He intends to spend time speaking with people living in social housing across the country, but he would first like to speak with those of you in the Lancaster West estate.

Some sessions will be taking place over the next few weeks, and we hope that some of you will attend. Further information on participating will follow in the next week but you can of course [contact the Department on our Grenfell email address](#) with any questions or to register your interest alongside that process.

The Public Inquiry

Last week saw the formal opening of the Public Inquiry. We understand many of you attended the event and others may have watched elsewhere either privately or in various events held across the community.

Sir Martin Moore-Bick said in his statement that he was still considering Core Participant applications and would be in touch with those of you who had applied soon, if he hasn't already. We hope this has given some comfort as it is so important your voices are heard and we all get to the truth of what has happened.

Sir Martin also said that he will not shrink from making any findings or recommendations that are justified by the evidence, simply because someone else may at a later date consider that they form the basis of civil or criminal liability. He intends to provide the Prime Minister with a first report by early April next year. The report will include:

- The development of the fire, where and how it started, how it spread and the chain of events before it was extinguished
- The response of the emergency services, and the evacuation of residents.

While we know it cannot undo what has happened, we both want to ensure every lesson is learnt and ensure something like this never happens again.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

NICK HURD MP