



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

22 August 2017

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, knowing that many of you will be taking part in the minute's silence held this weekend at the Notting Hill Carnival. This is clearly an important event in the community. We will both observe our own minute's silence to show our respect for, and unity with, you.

Housing

We remain completely committed to ensuring you are all getting the support and services you need, in particular with housing. We understand that viewings of permanent housing have been taking place and that some of you in the first priority band of the council's allocations policy, will shortly move into your new permanent homes. We hope that you settle in quickly and find these to be to your satisfaction.

We have heard your concerns about understanding the allocations policy and have relayed this back to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC). We understand they have responded accordingly, distributing more personal communication. Over the coming weeks, we will be working with them to ensure important news is communicated to you effectively and efficiently.

We also do understand that although a number of properties have been acquired already, more are needed. RBKC is currently exploring options with a number of developers to secure further local properties, to help you get what you need.

While it is right that RBKC focus on need, we are pleased that they are accelerating their engagement with tenants to help you find new permanent housing. But it is very important that this happens at your pace.

The Recovery Taskforce

We have heard a number of queries about the independent Recovery Taskforce, including why they are not Commissioners with powers to run services. We do understand your concerns and know that there have been calls for a statutory intervention.

But statutory intervention is restricted by law. This takes time and would have diverted the focus of RBKC away from the recovery effort. A non-statutory intervention was the fastest way of getting people with the right skills into the council. However, the taskforce remains independent of RBKC and will report to the Secretary of State.

We are encouraged that RBKC has brought in a number of experienced officers from other boroughs. Of course, even with new appointments, the taskforce will challenge RBKC's progress in the recovery effort, including how they work with local communities. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully though, and as we said in the last letter, all options do remain on the table.

Support and assistance

Like many of you, we were disappointed to hear that not more of the donations had reached you directly. We are pleased that the Charities Commission has been helping local charities and supporting them in distributing the money, as well as ensuring it is protected and used for you all.

We would like to take this opportunity to share the news of a new government contribution of over £1 million. This is made up of £750,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to the new Community Anchor Fund, which will help support large organisations within the community, and will help to support the volunteers and smaller groups.

A further £450,000 is also being contributed by the Department for Education, towards the Children and Young People's Fund. This will be used to support local charities helping children and young people affected by the tragedy.

You can find out further information, including how to access these funds through the London Funders website: <http://londonfunders.org.uk/trust-and-foundation-funding-and-support-community-groups-affected-grenfell-fire>

We recognise the importance of support from the NHS and were encouraged by the lengths they, along with volunteers, have gone to, ensuring you have access to the mental health support you feel you need. You can call 0800 0234 650 or email

cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net for assistance. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provided by the Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

In response to feedback, additional services are also now available including:

- Sessions with the Samaritans in various hotels.
- A new safe space for out of hours emotional support, run by Hestia and located on Kingsdown Close. It is open all night, seven days a week.
- Overnight emotional support at the Harrow Club, 187 Freston Road, from 8pm – 8am on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

We have also heard some concerns over your keyworkers changing. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that wherever it is reasonable and practical to do so, the utmost will be done to allow you to keep your current keyworker, if that is what you wish to do.

Communications and engagement

As we write this, we understand the Prime Minister is currently meeting with the residents from the tower who are represented by Grenfell United. We know how important it is to her that she hears your concerns directly, as well as through us. We hope that those of you who have seen her, have found it to be helpful and reassuring that you continue to be a top priority for the government.

Over the past few weeks, we have also both met with Grenfell United again, and are pleased to say that we are building a constructive working relationship with them. For those of you from Grenfell Tower who are not already a part of the group, you can join them if you wish to do so. They are in regular and direct contact with both of us, the Housing Minister Alok Sharma, and the Prime Minister's office, so this is another good avenue for you to voice your comments and concerns on the recovery work underway. You can contact them by emailing info@grenfellunited.org

Of course, that does not exclude the important and valued work that others in the community are also doing. We understand there are other community groups for wider residents of the estate and continue to engage with these groups also.

The Public Inquiry

As many of you will have seen, the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry has now published its term of reference. We understand that many of you were frustrated that the wider subject of social housing more generally was not included in these. Sir Martin Moore-Bick gave his recommendations to the Prime Minister, and provided clear reasons why he believed that the scope of the inquiry should not consider wider issues, and she accepted this.

Sir Martin wanted to ensure that conclusions could be reached as quickly as possible to ensure that lessons could be learnt, and acted on by the government with

immediate effect. If the public inquiry was extended to cover wider social housing, the Chair was not confident that conclusions would be reached quickly.

This, along with other reasons set out in his letter to the Prime Minister, is why wider questions of social housing have not been included in the Public Inquiry terms of reference. Instead, the Prime Minister has asked Alok to listen to the concerns of social residents across the country and we will then develop proposals to deal with issues identified. We hope this reassures you that this important topic is being taken seriously by government ministers.

Of course, the inquiry terms of reference do take account of specific elements that will help show what led to the unspeakable tragedy happening, which does include some elements of housing. More specifically, DCLG has checked with the Inquiry and it has been confirmed that the relationship between RBKC, the Kensington and Chelsea Tenants Management Organisation and local residents will be looked at.

There is further information about the inquiry, including the letter to the Prime Minister, and details of how you can participate, on the website grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk

You can find their [frequently asked questions on this website](#), and we hope this helps answer some of your questions.

As we have said before, we both continue to be wholly committed to getting justice for you all.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

NICK HURD MP