



HM Government

**The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**

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

**The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP**

*Minister for Grenfell Victims*

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

4th Floor, Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

[grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

27 February 2018

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](mailto:grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear all,

### **Future of the Grenfell Tower Site**

As the Prime Minister committed before Christmas, the community should be at the heart of deciding what happens to the Grenfell Tower site. We are therefore pleased to publish this week a signed document setting out the principles that will underpin the decision-making process in relation to the site's future. This has been agreed with representatives of the bereaved, survivors and Lancaster West estate, supported by Grenfell United and Kensington and Chelsea Council.

The document sets out that the Community will lead this decision-making. It also states, unequivocally, that the Council has no plans for the future of the site. And that the Council commits to transfer responsibility and ownership of the site, subject to its specific responsibilities, to a body represented by the bereaved and survivors, if that is the will of the community.

The Government will now work with the bereaved, survivors, immediate North Kensington community and Council to agree a trusted and transparent process that will enable the community to be at the heart of decision-making on the future of the site. The voice of the bereaved will carry the most weight within the decision-making.

The principles on the future of the Grenfell Tower site will be published in Parliament and made available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-the-grenfell-tower-site-principles-governing-forthcoming-consultations>.

## **Future of Grenfell Tower**

We also understand the concerns, particularly from bereaved families, about how decisions on Grenfell Tower will be made, prior to the outcome of the process to determine the future of the site.

Public authorities have specific responsibilities to ensure the health and safety, security and ongoing investigations on the site. This means that management of the Tower is separate to the principles we have agreed to determine the longer-term future of the site.

Because of this, we also wanted to write on behalf of Government, the Council and the independent site management team, to provide reassurance on how the bereaved, survivors and immediate North Kensington community will be engaged in matters relating to management of the Tower.

Such engagement will be led by Nick Hurd, the Minister for Grenfell Victims, and Doug Patterson, Chief Executive of London Borough of Bromley (the lead for site management who has taken over from Michael Lockwood). This will include:

1. Providing information and regular updates on matters of general interest to the community, such as safety and security of the Tower, timing of the police investigation and progress in covering the Tower.
2. Listening to feedback on any matters of general interest or specific issues affecting the community, such as access to the Tower, collection of personal possessions, cultural and religious concerns.
3. Sharing information on technical aspects relating to the site management and process to bring down the Tower, if and when this is decided. Decisions on such matters will remain with the relevant public authorities whose priorities are responsibility for safety and security of the site; the health and safety of those working on the site and living in the surrounding area; and the on-going criminal investigation and separate public inquiry. This will ensure that any decisions on management of the site and process to bring down the Tower do not jeopardise criminal justice processes or the public inquiry.
4. Public authorities will act in good faith and commit to ensuring that: community concerns are dealt with sensitively, particularly from the bereaved; the community is kept informed throughout the process; a response is provided to any questions and concerns raised; and explanations are offered as to why decisions have been taken.

5. Public authorities will consult with the community to reach a consensus on covering the Tower and any use of the covering for remembrance (e.g. projection or images) whilst the Tower remains.

Engagement will fully respect the importance of Grenfell Tower to the bereaved, survivors and immediate North Kensington community. Public authorities and the community will therefore work together in recognition of these special circumstances. As with the principles governing the future of the Grenfell Tower site, the voice of the bereaved will carry the most weight within community decisions.

We have always said that we must listen to you and work with you before we can rebuild your trust. We hope that this public commitment is a demonstration of us being true to that word.



**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**



**RT HON NICK HURD MP**