



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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

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Dear All,

We wanted to write to update you on important progress being made to support you in the process of adjustment to life in new permanent accommodation, the future of Grenfell Tower and the site, and immigration policy for core participants in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Firstly, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all those members of the community who organised, and were involved in, events for the Grenfell Tower one year commemorations. This was a very sad and difficult time, remembering those who tragically lost their lives, comforting the bereaved and reflecting on how, together, to move forward. We felt privileged to be able to attend the memorial events and visit schools participating in Green for Grenfell Day. Despite the sadness there was a feeling of looking to the future and the importance of continuing to ensure that children are fully supported.

### **Resettlement support**

The Prime Minister has made clear that the Government has a lasting commitment to support the families affected, long after the television cameras have gone. We want to assure you that the Government's commitment to help you to rebuild your lives continues. As part of this commitment, we recognise the fundamental importance of providing good quality, permanent homes that you can feel safe and secure in. We want to assure you that the Government will continue to challenge and support the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council to ensure the process for delivering on this commitment is met.

You may be aware that the Prime Minister recently announced some changes to her cabinet and the previous Housing Minister, Dominic Raab MP, has been appointed Secretary of State for the Department for Exiting the European Union. The new Housing Minister is Kit Malthouse MP and you can be assured that supporting the community into their permanent homes remains a high priority for him and the Government.

Many of you are now, or will shortly be, adjusting to life in permanent accommodation. The Government is also working closely with the Council to ensure that a continued package of tailored support is offered to all those who may need help in making this adjustment. These needs will vary depending on individual circumstances but, for example, the Government recognises that mental health support to the bereaved, survivors and Grenfell community will be needed over a number of years. The significant additional funding being made available to

NHS from 2019 will help the NHS to provide the necessary services for the victims of the Grenfell tragedy in the future.

I, Nick Hurd, will also continue in my role as Minister for Grenfell Victims to be available to discuss the support you are receiving and remain committed to supporting your community after you have moved into new permanent homes.

### **Future of Grenfell Tower site**

As we look ahead, we are committed to building on the principles we published in March and continuing on the journey towards a fitting memorial at the Grenfell Tower site. We are aware that there are other shorter term issues in relation to the site which need to be handled with great sensitivity. We thought it would be helpful to set out the key stages that we see ahead of us.

We are aware that the future of the Tower is a subject that needs to be handled with great sensitivity. It is important to be clear that no decision to deconstruct the Tower has yet been taken, but we will ensure that you are kept informed, understand the process ahead and have an opportunity to raise any concerns and share your views. We are clear that the bereaved, survivors and residents will need to understand and feel comfortable with every stage of this very sensitive process.

The site currently remains the subject of a police investigation, and this must take priority. As the Police finish their work they will be engaging with the community before they release it from being a crime scene.

Any decision on the deconstruction of the Tower will be informed by advice from experts and relevant public authorities responsible for the safety and security of the site and those living in the surrounding area. Specific investigations into the structural stability of the Tower over the longer term will be used to make an informed assessment. Decisions will be made in consultation with the Police and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to ensure that criminal justice or the Inquiry processes are not jeopardised.

We know that there will be lots of questions about the anticipated timing of a decision about deconstruction, and how and when it might happen. There will also be questions about the impact of deconstruction on the health and daily lives of residents and the community. We want to reassure you that there will be a period of engagement with the bereaved, survivors, and the local community when information will be shared and you will of course have a chance to ask any questions you may have. I, Nick Hurd, will continue to lead on community engagement for the site, working closely with Doug Patterson and the Site Management Team, the Metropolitan Police and other partners.

### **Legacy and Memorial**

The Principles governing consultations on the Future of the Grenfell Tower Site, published in March set out the Government's commitment to putting the bereaved, survivors and local community at the heart of determining the long term future of the Grenfell Tower site.

The Principles set out that the next step would be that the Government would work with bereaved families to agree a trusted and transparent process. We are pleased that initial discussions have started with representatives of the bereaved, survivors and local community to agree the detailed purpose and scope of community-led process, assumed to be a Memorial Commission, and how it will work to reach community consensus. These discussions have been very positive and once they have concluded, we are keen to update

you over the coming months on the membership of the Commission and how it will engage the bereaved, survivors and community.

The Council and its partners, including central government, are committed to working with all communities in the North Kensington area to support longer term recovery. Over the summer, they will be consulting on a set of commitments to those affected by the Grenfell tragedy, which are based on what they have heard from residents over the last twelve months. This will be used as the beginnings of a conversation with survivors, the bereaved and the wider community about the future.

### **Immigration Policy and Core Participants**

To support the work of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, the Home Office announced on 26 June a new policy to allow relatives who are called as a witness, or who have core participant status in the public inquiry, to extend their stay for up to a further 6-month period. This is so that they can remain in the country for the anticipated duration of the Inquiry oral evidence sessions.

Immigration applications will take account of designated Grenfell Tower inquiry core participant status and applications will be considered in a timely way to ensure that relatives can attend the inquiry to give evidence in-person.

### **Kensington Aldridge Academy**

As you will be aware the Kensington Aldridge Academy hope to return to Silchester Road in September. As part of their discussions, the school governors sought a range of information from experts and partners including the NHS and Doug Patterson's Site Management team. Doug and his team have worked closely with the school to reassure them about the stability of the Tower and the likely impacts, if a decision is made to deconstruct the Tower. This information will be made available on KAA's website (<https://kaa.org.uk/>).

**RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP**

**RT HON NICK HURD MP**