

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

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

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government

4th Floor, Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

Doug Patterson

Independent Site Management Lead

Site Management Office

Grenfell Road

W11 1WH

12 July 2019

Dear James,

I am writing to you ahead of the formal transfer of ownership of the Grenfell Tower site from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to Government. As you are aware, as former Chief Executive of London Borough of Bromley and representing London's Local Authority Gold arrangements, I have led the work of the multi-agency Site Management Group since January 2018.

The transfer of ownership from the Council to the Government represents an important step on the path to reaching a community-led proposal for a future memorial. I know you have already committed to engaging with the community at every step of the decision-making that lies ahead.

The priority of the Independent Site Management team has been to make sure the Tower is safe and secure, including managing the safety of those working on site and of the local community.

Specialist contractors have assessed and ensured the stability of the building through a regime of propping and continuous monitoring. I can confirm that the building is currently stable, but wanted to highlight that a complex range of factors make it hard to predict future deterioration.

To address this, a range of measures recommended by independent experts are in place to further reduce the rate of deterioration and ensure continued and ongoing safety: these include protective wrapping, scaffolding, and more than 4,000 props. Additional structural analysis has recently been commissioned to ensure our technical advice remains accurate and fully up to date. I am confident that you are taking ownership of a well-managed and health and safety compliant site, as confirmed by the Health and Safety Executive.

As ownership transfers to Government, it will be essential that specialist and historic knowledge of the site and how it has been managed, and the important relationships with the community, are retained. I am delighted that members of the independent Site Management

Team, who have been managing the site since July 2017, will be transferring to MHCLG to provide this continuity. While I will formally stand down as Chair of the Site Management group, I welcome the opportunity to continue my involvement by supporting the transition to Government ownership and the decision-making on the future of the site thereafter, in an advisory role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the multi-agency Site Management Group for their work and commitment over the past two years.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Patterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Patterson