

Relocation of the electricity substation in Grenfell Tower

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Some of the homes on the Lancaster West Estate are supplied with electricity from a substation on the ground floor of Grenfell Tower.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), owner of the Grenfell Tower site, is currently carrying out planned safety works in the Tower. To complete this work, the substation will need to be decommissioned and relocated by the local council, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC), so that power can continue to be supplied to homes on the estate.

The proposed new location of the substation is on land owned by the council. They have written to Lancaster West Estate residents about the proposed relocation, explaining the planning application and consultation process. They will write to residents in the immediate area again with details of how to comment on the planning application once the consultation is live.

We have included some information about the proposed relocation below.

Safety works

Since last summer, we have been fitting additional 'props' (aluminium supports) in the Tower so that we can ensure the building's continued stability. To enable the installation of these props, we have been removing heavy, damaged items and asbestos from individual flats. Find out more about these planned safety works in our [July 2020 community update](#) and letter and more about asbestos removal in our [September meeting write up](#).

Read write ups from our regular community meetings on the safety works at www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/grenfell-community-updates

If you have any questions about the safety works in the Tower, or would like to speak to MHCLG directly about any aspect of the substation being removed from the Tower, please contact us by email at GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call us on **0303 444 0011**.

Frequently-asked questions

Q: What is a substation?

A: A substation reduces electricity voltage so that it is easier and safer to deliver electricity to homes and businesses.

Q: Where is the proposed new location of the substation, and how was it chosen?

A: Several locations were considered for the new substation. The location proposed for the new substation is behind Kensington Leisure Centre. This location is preferred as it meets the following criteria:

- It's a paved area so will not take up green space
- Good vehicle access via Silchester Road
- Located away from the Grenfell Tower site boundary
- Space available for future power requirements
- Cable lengths not extensive, meaning less potential disturbance from groundworks
- This location already has another substation

Map showing proposed location of the new electricity substation:



Q: Does/will the substation supply my property?

A: The existing and relocated substation supplies properties in Barandon Road, Hurstway Road, Blechynden Street and Grenfell Walk.

Q: Will our electricity supply be affected while it is being relocated?

A: No. The new substation will be newly built so it once it is ready and all the safety checks have been completed, the old substation will be switched off and the new one will take over supplying power to the local area.

Q: Will I lose power at any point during the transfer?

A: No disruption to electricity supply is anticipated in the move as new substation will be live before the existing substation is decommissioned.

Q: Why is the move happening now?

A: The next stage of safety works in the Tower is the installation of additional propping, to ensure its continued stability until a decision is made about its future. Due to these works, the substation must be decommissioned and relocated elsewhere in the immediate area. You can find out more about the propping and the planned safety works at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-and-update-on-upcoming-safety-works-in-response-to-the-grenfell-tower-fire-3-july-2020

Q: Is the current location of the substation safe?

A: Yes, the existing substation meets safety requirements. The move is necessary to allow for propping work in Grenfell Tower as explained above, and to provide a long-term home for the substation – not because the current substation is unsafe.

Q: Is it safe to relocate a substation?

A: Substation relocation is a common process and does not present a danger to people nearby. A substation is either protected by fences or located within a building that only trained staff may enter.

Q: Does this mean that the Tower is coming down?

A: No. A decision has not yet been made about what will happen to the Tower.

Q: What is the impact on the relocation for any future memorial?

A: The relocated substation will be able to supply the power required on the site in the future, in whichever form that may take.

Q: How big will the substation be?

A: The substation is likely to be around 10x5m in size and will be a simple brick construction.

Proposed location and indicative design for the substation:



Q: Who is doing the work/paying for the work?

A: MHCLG is paying for UK Power Networks (UKPN) to do the work. RBKC will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the station in its new location. There will be no cost implications for residents.

Q: Who are UKPN?

A: UK Power Networks owns and maintains the electricity cables in London and south east England, and the east of England.

Q: Will the work be noisy or disruptive?

A: There won't be any interruption to electricity supplies during the period and we anticipate that any disruption for local people as a result of the work will be minimal. All work will be carried out within daytime working hours and in accordance with the Council's Code of Construction Practice.

Q: When will the work start and how long will it take?

A: It is anticipated that the substation relocation work will take place over the summer and will last for up to 12 weeks.

Q: Is the substation required by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry or for the Metropolitan Police investigation?

A: No. These works will not interfere with the process of justice and accountability. The coroner, the police and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry have all confirmed that they have the evidence they need from the Tower and that they are content for the bigger programme of safety works to happen.

Q: Will the relocation affect Kensington Leisure Centre?

A: No. Kensington Leisure Centre will continue to be supplied via the existing substation next to it.

How to get in touch, or for more information

If you have any questions about the proposal, the upcoming consultation or the new location, please contact the council's Lancaster West Neighbourhood Team by email at:

- lancasterwestoffice@rbkc.gov.uk

If you have questions about the planned safety works in the Tower, or would like to speak to MHCLG directly about any aspect of the existing substation being removed from the Tower, please contact the site management team at:

- GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone **0303 444 0011**

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (19 April 2021)