

# The future of Grenfell Tower

Information provided at meetings from May to July 2021



## What is this leaflet about?

The government is the guardian of the Grenfell Tower site. We are responsible for keeping the site safe and secure, and for making a decision about the future of the Tower.

From May 2021, we will be sharing information with you about decision-making on what should happen to the Tower, and likely timings. This leaflet provides a summary and explains how to get in touch with your questions and concerns, or priorities for the way ahead.

We recognise that this is a sensitive issue. As well as the meetings we have scheduled from May to July, we are available to meet and speak with you in any other way that suits you best. Please get in touch.



## What is the role of the Memorial Commission?

The government is committed to supporting the local community in their creation of a fitting memorial to honour those who lost their lives in the tragedy. The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission is made up of representatives of bereaved families, survivors and local residents. They are developing the community-led vision for a memorial, and their work is progressing. The Memorial Commission is not responsible for deciding what happens to the Tower.

## Why are we talking about this now?

Following important advice from structural engineers about the condition of the Tower, we need to consider this summer if, and when, the Tower should be carefully taken down to maintain safety.

This is so that we can plan what happens once the safety works currently taking place within the Tower are completed next spring. These safety works include adding new props (aluminium or steel supports) to supplement the 4,500 props that have already been installed in the Tower. Many of these were installed shortly after the fire.

Engineers have recommended that we proceed with carefully bringing down the Tower after these safety works have been completed. This means that we need to consider this advice now. We want to share this advice with you and discuss its implications, which is the purpose of the meetings taking place from May–July.

It will be at least a year before we begin to implement any decision, which means there will be no change to the Tower before the fifth anniversary in 2022.

## Is the Tower stable?

Engineers have confirmed that Grenfell Tower is stable. The props and other safety measures were put in place immediately after the fire to stabilise and to protect the building as fully as possible. This enabled safe access to facilitate police investigations and visits into the Tower.

The Tower continues to be closely-monitored and maintained. An automated system was installed to assess the Tower's stability 24/7 and is supplemented with daily inspections and regular visual floor-by-floor checks by structural engineering specialists.

All of the works that we have completed to date, including the installation of props and wrapping the Tower, have been completed to protect the Tower and keep it stable. This means that people can continue to live, study and work nearby.

However, even with the further propping as part of the ongoing safety works, the damage to the Tower – as a result of the fire – means that the condition of the building will continue to worsen.

## What does the engineering advice say about the condition of the Tower?

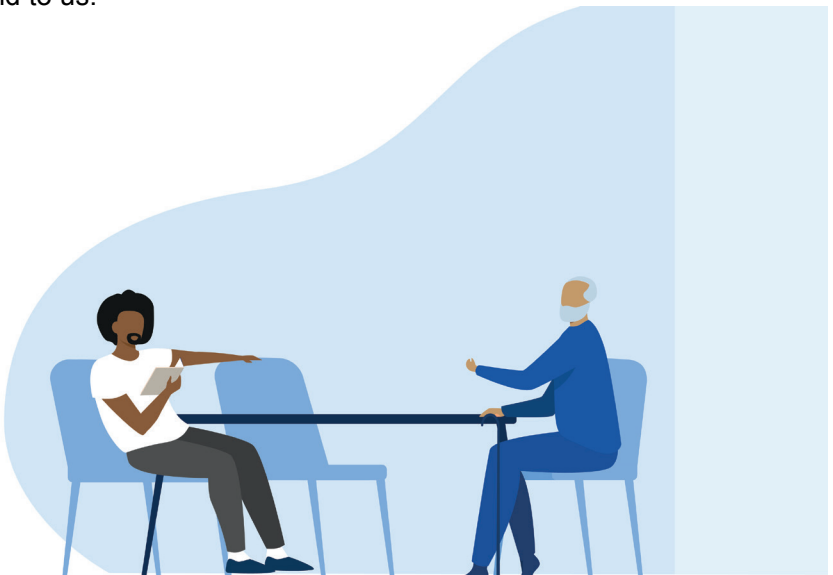
The fire damaged the concrete on the underside of the floor slabs and on some of the walls and columns. This has, or could, cause the concrete to break away from the structure. This type of damage is referred to as 'spalling' by engineers and has left some areas beyond repair.



The condition of the building is also affected by exposure to the elements and the alternate freezing and thawing during winter and summer. This is likely to cause further deterioration of the building over time.

Because of this, engineers have recommended that we proceed with carefully bringing down the Tower after the safety works have been completed next spring.

We have also commissioned a peer review, by an independent engineer, of the engineering advice we have received. We will publish their advice alongside that of our other engineers, so you can see exactly what they have said to us.



## What else will affect the decision on the future of the Tower?

In 2018, we committed to the following principles:

- Hear from the community, especially bereaved families, at every step to a memorial
- Prioritise the health and safety of those living, working and studying nearby
- Ensure the decision is evidence-based and informed by experts
- Not interfere with the path to justice by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry or the police.

At the end of May, we will publish the advice that we have received on these principles, which will inform the decision on what should happen to the Tower. This is so that you have an opportunity to consider the advice, provide your comments on it and raise any questions or concerns, before a decision is made in the summer.

## Is the Tower needed for the ongoing Grenfell Tower Inquiry or police investigation?

The government is in regular contact with the Metropolitan Police, the coroner and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to ensure that decisions do not interfere with their work. They have confirmed to us that they have all the evidence they need from the Tower.

## What is happening about the future memorial?

We fully support the Memorial Commission and the community in their creation of a fitting memorial to honour those who lost their lives. The government has committed to the Memorial Commission that parts of the Tower can be retained for use, if they wish, as part of the memorial. For further information, please visit: [www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk](http://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk)

## What's going to happen next?

It will be at least a year before we begin to implement any decision. There will be no visible change to the Tower before the fifth anniversary in 2022.

- **So far:** safety works have been ongoing in the Tower since summer 2020.
- **May–July 2021:**
  - MHCLG and our structural engineers will be speaking to you about the advice we have received. This is taking place via household bubble meetings, online presentations or one-to-one discussions if you prefer.
  - independent engagement organisation, Kaizen, will also continue to be available to capture your views until the end of the July (see their contact details at the end of this leaflet).
- **End of May:** we will publish the information that will be considered as part of the decision on what should happen to the Tower, including the engineering advice. This is to allow time for you to consider it and ask any questions.
- **End of July:** we welcome any comments on the published information by the end of July. Kaizen's gathering of views about the Tower will also end at this point.
- **By the end of summer 2021:** in August or September, we expect to take the decision once we have heard all views and representations.
- **2021–2022:** if a decision is made to follow the engineers' recommendation to start to deconstruct the Tower next year, a specialist deconstruction company will be appointed. They will develop a detailed plan for how the Tower can be carefully taken down in the most sensitive and considerate way. (This will be in addition to the current contractor who carries out maintenance and safety works.) We will again seek the views of bereaved, survivors and residents to inform how we can best approach this.

**We want to hear your questions or concerns on the information we are publishing, and we are available to discuss it with you.**

### **There are several ways to speak to us:**



Book another personal household bubble meeting or online presentation with us, at: [Grenfell2021.eventbrite.com](https://www.grenfell2021.eventbrite.com)



Arrange a one-to-one conversation with us by emailing [GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk) or calling **0303 444 0011**.



Come to one of our regular online ‘drop-in’ meetings. On Fridays, the MHCLG community engagement team will be at The Clement James Centre (the front garden studio), 95 Sirdar Road, London W11 4EQ. They will be there on **21 and 28 May; 4 and 25 June; 2, 9, 16 and 23 July**. Please email us to book an appointment.



Kaizen, an independent engagement organisation, are supporting us by gathering your views about the Tower until the end of July. You can contact them at: [grenfelltower@kaizen.org.uk](mailto:grenfelltower@kaizen.org.uk), **020 7082 5505**, (or text **07984 434855** to arrange a phone conversation) or complete their online questions at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrenfellTower](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrenfellTower)

### **To find more information**

- Sign up for email updates at [www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates](https://www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates)
- At that same weblink, the advice we have received – including from structural engineers – will be available in full from the end of this month.

## Health and wellbeing support

There is help available, please do reach out if you need to.

To talk to someone, please get in touch with the **NHS Grenfell Health & Wellbeing Service** by calling **020 8637 6279**. They are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm.

Your Dedicated Support worker is also available to help, if you need to speak to them.

For more information about the support available to you, please go to: [bit.ly/NorthKenNHS](https://bit.ly/NorthKenNHS)

Thank you for reading