



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alistair Watters
Director, Grenfell Site & Programme

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government**
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

9 July 2021

Dear residents,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

I wrote to you in May about the publication of the independent, expert advice that will inform a decision about the future of the Tower later this summer. That advice was published on 27 May at: www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates.

What is this letter about?

Throughout May and early June, we have been meeting with bereaved families, survivors and residents to share and discuss the advice with you, and to understand any questions, concerns and priorities about the way ahead.

I am writing again now to share what we have heard so far, and to ensure that the responses we have given to some of the most frequently asked questions are shared. We recognise that some people haven't felt able to attend the sessions and so wanted to share the information with everyone. We want to be transparent and to provide you with all the information at every step towards a decision, and beyond.

The most commonly asked questions we have heard so far, and responses, are included at the end of this letter.

How to share your views

The MHCLG Grenfell site team and engineering experts remain available to meet with you, and are keen to hear any further comments, questions and concerns you may have about the documents we have published, or the information in this letter. We are happy to speak to you directly, either in person at a place convenient to you or on the phone – the different ways to speak to us are included on page 3 of this letter.

What will happen next?

We are keen to understand your comments or questions **by the end of July**. We will continue to be available to meet with you before a decision is reached, and thereafter. We have also written to the legal representatives for all core participants in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to share the advice we have received ahead of a decision being made.

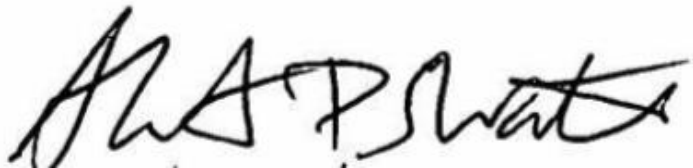
We will write to you again in September, once we have had the time to fully consider all of the comments we have received. We expect, at that point, to communicate the

decision that has been reached on the future of the Tower and to set out the further steps. We appreciate that many of you may be taking a holiday during August, but we will continue to be available on GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk and **0303 444 0011** if you would like to contact us with any questions or concerns during this time.

If you need support

We appreciate that some of the information we are sharing is upsetting. If you need to talk to someone, you can call the Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service, a free and confidential NHS service for children and adults on **020 8637 6279**. You can also email grenfell.wellbeingservice@nhs.net or visit grenfellwellbeing.com

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Watters', written in a cursive style.

Alistair Watters

Director, Grenfell Site & Programme

How to read the information we have published



The advice that will inform a decision was published on 27 May and can be seen at: www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates

You can scan the QR code provided to this website from a phone or mobile device. We have also included an information leaflet with this letter.

How to get in touch

We are available to speak to you directly, either in person at a place convenient to you or on the phone – you can also reach us by attending any of the following meetings or drop ins:

- **Local resident ‘drop-ins’** at:
 - **Friday 2 and 16 July, 10am–4pm**, at **Unit 30, Baseline Studios**, Whitchurch Road, London W11 4AT
 - **Friday 9 and 23 July, 10am–4pm**, at **The Clement James Centre** (the front garden studio), 95 Sirdar Road, London W11 4EQ

(Please note that these drop-ins are at different locations to the ones that took place in May and June. We changed the locations following your feedback.)

- Attending **an online group presentation with our structural engineers**, if you have not done so already. These are every Wednesday until 21 July from 6–7.30pm (please book your slot at grenfell2021.eventbrite.com)
- If you would prefer to **speak to somebody one-to-one**, or if the above dates and times don't work for you, please get in touch using the details below.
 - email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk
 - call **0303 444 0011**.

Commonly asked questions from May–June conversations:

Q. Is the Tower at risk of collapsing?

A: Grenfell Tower is stable but was badly damaged by the fire. Immediately following the fire, measures were put in place to ensure the Tower was stable and to protect the building as fully as possible. Because of the work undertaken so far, people can continue to live, work and go to the school nearby. A system is in place to monitor the Tower 24/7 and this is supplemented by daily inspections and regular visual floor-by-floor checks by structural engineering specialists.

Q: ‘No change to the Tower until the fifth anniversary’: what does that mean?

A: The government needs to consider if, and when, the Tower should be carefully taken down to maintain safety. It will be at least a year before we begin to implement any decision. This means that the Tower will be standing in its current form in June 2022, even if a decision has been taken to carefully take down the Tower.

Q. Has a decision about the future of the Tower already been reached?

A. No. The government has received advice from engineering experts, which we are carefully considering, and want to discuss it with you, before a decision is made. We expect a decision to be made in September.

Q: Are there contaminated materials inside the Tower which might be in the air and environment nearby?

A: A high level of precaution in handling any building materials from the Tower is used, as agreed with Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive. All bagged building material was removed from the site by June 2019, and from the Tower by March 2020.

Air quality around the Tower is regularly monitored by Public Health England to assess any risk to public health. This includes monitoring for the presence of asbestos fibres. The monitoring has suggested that the risk to public health remains low. It is published here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

Work is taking place to analyse local soils for signs of contamination. Results from the first stage of this programme are available at: www.gov.uk/guidance/grenfell-environmental-checks-stage-1-report and the second stage results will be published later this year.

Q: I've heard that there are still people's ashes and remains within the Tower?

A: The police released Grenfell Tower as a crime scene in August 2018. The police and the coroner have confirmed – and spoken directly to families - that they have recovered, identified and returned those who died to their families. The government remains in contact with the Metropolitan Police and coroner to ensure that decisions on the Grenfell Tower site do not interfere with their work. We recognise that the Tower is a sacred place for many. We will ensure that the Tower and site continues to be managed in a sensitive way.

Q. Who is the new Principal Contractor and what will they do?

A. The new contractor is Deconstruct UK Ltd (DUK), part of De-Group. They have been working at the Grenfell Tower site since 2017 and understand the structure of the Tower and sensitive management of the site. They have not been appointed to carefully take down the Tower. For more information, please go to: www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/grenfell-community-updates

Q: Who is paying for the safety works, or if the Tower comes down?

A: The government has responsibility for the cost of safety works. If the Tower is carefully taken down, there will be no costs for local residents or council tax-payers.

Q. Are you collecting ideas for a memorial?

A. The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission has been established to enable bereaved families, survivors and local residents to decide together on the future memorial, ensuring the voices of the bereaved families are clearly heard. We will pass any ideas that we have heard onto the Memorial Commission and would encourage you to continue to share your ideas directly with them: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact