



HM Government

Grenfell  
community

updates

## Our conversations with residents: May 2023

### A message from Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

I am very grateful to those who took the time to meet Jane (Baroness Scott) and me at our private meeting on Tuesday 2 May which took place at Al-Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre. I was glad to hear directly about the issues that matter most to you.



I remain fully committed to supporting the Grenfell community, listening and making progress on the issues that are important to you and your families. I recognise that we need to learn lessons and build a lasting legacy. I want to assure you that I regard these as amongst the most important responsibilities I have as secretary of state. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the issues and concerns that you have raised in recent conversations with my officials, as well as a summary of our conversation held at the residents' meeting in May:

- The Grenfell Tower Inquiry hearings have concluded, and the inquiry team is working to finalise its report. Since we met, the inquiry announced that it expects to deliver its final report to the prime minister in early 2024, and he will then decide when it will be published. This government is determined to learn the lessons of the past to make sure that such a tragedy never happens again. Further information can be found online at: [www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/news/april-2023-newsletter](http://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/news/april-2023-newsletter)
- I have heard that for some, criminal charges are not being brought quickly enough by the Metropolitan police. While the criminal investigation is independent of the inquiry, the police have said that any investigation will take its findings into account after the final inquiry report has been made public.

- I have heard from you that there needs to be substantive change for social housing tenants up and down the country. I agree. All social housing tenants deserve to live in homes that are decent, safe, and secure, and to be treated with fairness, respect and professionalism by their landlord. This government will not stand for any tenant being mistreated and we are acting to ensure they are protected and get the homes they deserve. The Social Housing Regulation Bill, which is currently being debated by parliament, contains measures directly influenced by the experiences of Grenfell Tower residents and will give tenants a stronger voice. Monitoring and enforcement action will take place in more cases where there is a breach of standards, with a new inspection regime and new standards to drive up the competence and conduct of staff, and to set time limits for repairs. Action can be taken against social landlords who do not meet expected standards. More information can be found online at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/social-housing-quality](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/social-housing-quality)
- For too long, too many developers have profited from unsafe buildings, I am determined to hold them to account and to protect leaseholders from paying for costly repairs to the buildings they live in. The Building Safety Act puts in place these protections. In January, my department issued contracts to developers committing them to undertake or pay for repairs in unsafe buildings. Eligible developers who do not sign the contract will be prevented from operating freely in the housing market. Only those developers who behave responsibly will be trusted to build the homes of the future.
- The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission is developing the community-led vision for a memorial and their work is progressing. I know that many of you continue to offer your views about the memorial to them, and I encourage you to continue to make your voices heard in this vital conversation. You can find out more about their work at: [www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk](http://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk)
- Baroness Scott and I will continue to work with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the NHS to ensure you have the services and support you need.

**In the meeting on 2 May, you asked about the following:**

### **Long-term support**

**Issue: You asked about the government's long-term plans for supporting the local community, particularly for children and young people.**

**In response:** I know how important it is that the community is truly heard and seen, and for local schools to receive the right support. My department is working with the council and health partners to ensure there is long-term support for the community, particularly for children and young people. We are also meeting with leadership in local schools to explore ways that pupils can be supported.

Jane and I regularly meet with leaders in RBKC and the NHS and will continue to do so, providing updates on our conversations to you.

The NHS Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service provides free and confidential support to children and adults. You can visit the website at [grenfellwellbeing.com](https://www.grenfellwellbeing.com) for information, or you can call them on **020 8637 6279** (from 8am to 8pm) or on their urgent advice line on **0800 0234 650** (24 hours a day).

### **Housing**

**Issue: You raised concerns about the financial pressure residents are feeling.**

**In response:** I am aware that there are various financial pressures facing residents living close to Grenfell Tower, and beyond, at this time. I share your view that North Kensington does need investment, and I continue to support all measures to improve the quality of social housing conditions and provision of community spaces for everyone. It remains important that residents are listened to and consulted at every stage. Baroness Scott has recently met with some residents to hear directly about the issues that are affecting you, and matter most to the community. My officials are available to discuss these issues and any other matters that you wish to raise, please use the details at the end of the letter to get in touch.

### **Grenfell Tower site**

**Issue: You asked about the progress of the criminal investigation.**

**In response:** The criminal investigation by the Metropolitan police is ongoing and will take into account the findings of the inquiry, which is due to be delivered to the prime minister in early 2024.

**Issue: You asked about the future of the tower.**

**In response:** I know how important and sensitive a decision on the future of Grenfell Tower will be. I have been very clear that I will not make a decision about the future of the tower without having further conversations with you to understand your views. Please do continue to share your thoughts with my officials using the details provided at the end of this letter.

**Please see below for details of how to contact me and my officials:**

- To speak with someone from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) community team, or to arrange a meeting, please email [grenfelltowersite@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:grenfelltowersite@levellingup.gov.uk) or phone **0303 444 0011**.
- All Grenfell community updates can be found online at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), or you can scan the QR code below to take you to the correct page:



**Moving forward with our conversation**

I would like to thank those of you who were able to come to the meeting. I have been deeply moved by what I have heard, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your participation in these continuing conversations.

I look forward to speaking with you again in future meetings.