



HM Government

Grenfell  
community

updates

# The future of Grenfell Tower: advice that will inform a decision

## The future of Grenfell Tower: advice that will inform a decision

The government is responsible for Grenfell Tower. We know the site is deeply sensitive, and that decisions about the tower are personal to you as bereaved families, survivors and residents in the immediate community. Your views and concerns are an important part of the government's future decision-making.

### Approach to a decision

The Deputy Prime Minister has recently shared with you that she plans to continue the conversation about the tower to understand your views and come to a decision in February 2025. She has made a firm commitment that you will continue to be at the heart of this process.

As part of this, she wishes to set out a clear path ahead to bring transparency to the decision-making. She wants to ensure your voices are heard and that you have information about the approach to the decision before it is made. She knows there are a range of views involved. She has committed to listen, to respect the different views shared, and for these conversations to inform her approach.

In 2018, the previous government outlined four [key principles](#) to guide a decision about what would happen to Grenfell Tower. These principles continue to guide decisions. The government also committed that, alongside this, the community-led Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission would develop a proposal for what happens to the Grenfell Tower site in the future, and set out how the memorial site will be owned and managed in the long term. The Commission is not responsible for decisions about the tower.

There will be no immediate changes to the site, whatever the decision, meaning there will be no changes to the site before the 8th anniversary of the tragedy in June 2025.

### Engaging with the community

The Deputy Prime Minister has been clear that the bereaved, survivors and residents in the immediate community must be at the heart of a decision about the tower, and she wants to understand your views before coming to a decision.

The Department started engaging with the community about the tower, and a decision on its future, in 2020. Views that have previously been shared with the Department have been recorded and will inform the decision-making process. This

conversation continues. We know that some of you have not felt able to share views yet and we want you to have the opportunity to do so if you wish. So far, we have heard some themes mentioned often:

- Grenfell Tower is a sacred site, with particular significance to those directly affected. Decisions must honour the tower, those lives lost, and those lives changed forever.
- The tower is a symbol of what the community has lost. Its presence on the skyline helps ensure the tragedy is not forgotten.
- The tower is a painful reminder of what happened and has an impact on those who live, work and study nearby and see it regularly.
- The importance of creating a fitting memorial determined by the community that will last in perpetuity.
- The importance of justice: the site was a crime scene until 2018 and there is a need for assurances that decisions on the future of the tower will not interfere with the path to justice.

We are offering a range of opportunities for bereaved families, survivors and residents in the immediate community to speak to us to share views, if they wish, in the way that is most comfortable to them. We are inviting families to speak directly to Ministers and officials in private family or small group meetings, or join regular meetings with officials. We also welcome any comments sent to us directly. You can contact the team using the details provided at the end of this document.

### **Independent expert advice**

#### **Health and safety**

The government is advised by a range of experts and independent structural engineers. The tower is monitored 24/7, alongside regular inspections and visual floor-by-floor checks by structural engineering specialists. They have also independently undertaken structural assessments of Grenfell Tower and its condition. The Department published [independent expert advice about the tower](#) in 2021. We are making the most recent update available so that you can examine it, comment, raise questions or discuss it with us, if you wish, as part of sharing your views about the tower.

#### **Grenfell Tower – update of structural engineering advice 2024**

Engineers continue to monitor the tower. This report has been prepared as an update to the engineering advice following completion of the safety works in 2022.

In summary, key points from the 2024 report are:

- Engineers confirm the tower remains stable and it continues to be safe for people to live, work and study nearby.
- Safety works were carried out to ensure the continued stability of the tower. In 2022, these works were extended to install props ('Stage 3 propping') from the basement to the fourth floor. Props are now installed

from the basement to the roof (24<sup>th</sup> floor) to ensure the ongoing stability of the tower.

- The tower continues to be closely monitored. The data from the monitoring systems is as expected and within acceptable bounds.
- Engineers advise there have been no significant changes to the tower in the reporting period, but the propping does not change the underlying condition of the structure, and this will continue to worsen over time as a result of the significant structural damage caused by the fire. The condition will continue to worsen the longer the building is left in place.
- Given the level of damage to the structure, engineers advise it is not seen as practicable to remediate all or part of the damaged structure to bring it back into use. The tower is especially damaged above the 10th floor.
- Engineers' advice remains unchanged in that the building (or that part of it that was significantly damaged) should be carefully taken down.

Please note that the advice document contains detailed descriptions which could be upsetting for some. A version of the document has therefore been created with all photographs of fire damage and the interior of the tower removed to minimise the amount of potentially upsetting or distressing information within it.

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

We have committed to prioritise health and safety, which includes the impact of the decision on the future of the tower on mental and physical health.

In seeking to understand any public health impacts, we have considered publicly available information from surveys and other work conducted by other agencies which have included a reference to the impact of the Grenfell Tower.

This includes the Grenfell [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (JSNA), published in May 2024. This provides an updated assessment of health and wellbeing needs within the community. It updates the JSNA produced in 2018 and seeks to build a better understanding of the ongoing impact of the Grenfell tragedy to support the planning and delivery of support in the next phase of recovery (2024 to 2028).

The 2018 JSNA identified that establishing the future of Grenfell Tower and the site is important to recovery. The JSNA underscores this and highlights several other considerations relevant to decisions about the future of the tower.

This assessment notes that specific offers of support for bereaved and survivors should be available based on an individual's current and future needs, with particular attention paid to the specific long-term impacts of this public tragedy and key milestones, such as decisions about the tower. The JSNA finds that many residents in the immediate community around the tower are concerned about the negative impact of living near the tower and seeing it every day. This is also reflected in the annual health and wellbeing survey of North Kensington residents, outlined in the JSNA, where the tower is mentioned in people's comments about the ongoing health

and wellbeing impact of the Grenfell tragedy. The first phase of the council's [consultation](#) with the community on the Future Grenfell Support programme echoed these findings.

We recognise that there are many different perspectives on the tower and that public health assessments do not capture how all individuals may feel about it, which is why we also want to hear directly from those individuals affected by the decision.

### **Not interfering with the path to justice**

The government has remained in contact with the Metropolitan Police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and HM Coroner to ensure that decisions about the Grenfell Tower site do not interfere with their work.

The police released Grenfell Tower as a crime scene in August 2018. They confirmed at that time, as well as subsequently, that they have obtained all the evidence that they require from Grenfell Tower.

The Inquiry confirmed that their expert witnesses have been able to gather all required evidence. The Inquiry's final report was published on 4 September 2024.

We will nonetheless write to the Metropolitan Police, CPS and HM Coroner again, before a decision on the future of the tower is reached. Should they raise any requirements, we will publish information on these and how they have been addressed in our decision-making at the point of the decision on the future of the tower.

### **Grenfell memorial**

The government is committed to the creation of a fitting and lasting memorial determined by the community to honour those who lost their lives in the tragedy and those lives forever changed. We are working with the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission to take forward their recommendations.

The Commission's [first report](#), *Remembering Grenfell: our journey so far*, published in May 2022, outlined the ideas that had been gathered from the community at that point, about what the memorial should be like. The Commission's [second report](#), *Remembering Grenfell: Recommendations and next steps to a memorial*, published in November 2023, presented the community's vision for a memorial, and the Commission's recommendations and next steps for making that vision a reality.

The Commission's reports set out what they have heard from the community about their vision for the memorial. The Commission is not responsible for deciding the future of the tower, but the report explains that views about the tower have come up during their engagement about the memorial. The report outlines some of those views shared with them and explains that when that happened, they passed them directly to the government.

The process to select a memorial design team was launched in July 2024 and is ongoing. Further details about that process can be found [on the Commission's website](#). The government setting out this path to a decision and giving clarity about the tower will help this important work to progress.

The government has committed that elements from Grenfell Tower and the site can be retained for use as part of the memorial, if the community wishes. The Commission's second report noted that there is a range of views on this sensitive topic. The report outlined three factors to consider in deciding whether any element from Grenfell Tower can be used in the memorial: that they must be viable, possible to conserve and acceptable to the community do so. This delicate issue of the use of elements will be carefully approached during the development of design options, particularly with bereaved families and survivors.

### **Next steps**

The Deputy Prime Minister is clear she would like to understand the community's views before coming to a decision about the future of the tower. The Department is offering a range of opportunities for you to share your views in the way that is most comfortable to you. If you would like to speak to us one-to-one, or for more information on any information covered here, please email: [GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk)