



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

21 December 2017

Dear All

In June, I made a promise that long after the television cameras had gone, the Government would be there supporting the bereaved, survivors and the wider community of North Kensington to recover. It is just over six months since the devastating events of 14 June. I am writing to you now to restate that sincere commitment to support you and your community as you continue the process of recovery.

At the national memorial service at St Paul's cathedral last week, I heard many deeply moving and dignified accounts of the effect the tragedy of Grenfell has had on so many people. We also heard about the tremendous community spirit of the people of North Kensington. The local community immediately pulled together in the aftermath of the fire, and they have remained united ever since.

The profound bonds that you share will always endure but I also understand that in the months and years ahead, the site of Grenfell Tower will be of crucial significance. I know that there is some anxiety about the future of the site and how decisions on its future will be made.

I want to reassure you, as the Communities Secretary stated to Parliament on Monday, that no decision has been taken about the long-term future of the site on which the Tower sits. I also want to give you my own personal commitment that the bereaved, survivors and the wider community will lead and be at the heart of the decision-making process on the site. I know Michael Lockwood, the Grenfell Tower site and remediation manager, and Nick Hurd, Minister for Grenfell victims, have already begun engaging with you on this. This includes starting to develop a set of principles for the future of the site with the bereaved and survivors. They hope to publish these in the New Year. However, I can confirm now that the Council have no plans for the site and that if the bereaved and survivors do not want the site to be redeveloped for housing, then the site will not be redeveloped for housing.

I would also like to update you on the Grenfell Inquiry. I have written to the Chair, Sir Martin Moore-Bick, regarding the question of whether to appoint additional panel members. Having considered the support and expert advice that will be provided by the assessors, the Terms of Reference which it is the Inquiry's role to deliver, and the need for the Inquiry to complete its initial report as quickly as reasonably possible, I believe that the Inquiry has the necessary expertise to undertake its work. On this basis I have decided not to appoint additional panel members at this stage.

I know this is an issue on which many of you have strong feelings. As I have said since I established the Inquiry, it is of paramount importance that it provides an opportunity for the bereaved, survivors, and the community to be heard and for lessons to be learnt from their views and experiences. I have set out to Sir Martin my belief that a community advisory panel, a model which I have seen work well for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, would play a very beneficial role in putting those most affected at the heart of the Inquiry. I welcome the consideration Sir Martin is giving to the establishment of such a panel and it is now for him to consult with you on how best to take this forward. I will be following its progress.

The coming weeks will be an especially difficult time as we approach the first Christmas since the fire. For those facing the first Christmas without loved ones, it will be hard to bear. There is nothing I can say to lessen the pain and sadness of loss. But I can offer you assurance that the Government I lead is doing everything within its power to provide the necessary help and support, and will be unstinting in its efforts to help the survivors to rebuild their lives.

Those who perished in the fire will never be forgotten, and neither will those who survived that awful night.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rishi Sunak', written in a cursive style.