



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
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**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
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We wrote to you on 22nd May providing updates on important issues relating to the response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, including the independent review of building and fire safety and expanding the membership of the Inquiry panel.

As we approach the one year mark, we understand what a difficult time this will be for you. We therefore also wanted to write to update you on important progress being made in relation to the management of the Tower, arrangements for deciding the future of the site itself and information about the Metropolitan Police investigation into the causes of the fire.

Metropolitan Police Investigation

Commander Stuart Cundy is leading the investigation and he has made it clear that the investigation is of unparalleled scale and complexity. It is one of the largest criminal investigations ever outside counter-terrorism, with a dedicated team of approximately 200 officers.

The team are extremely professional and dedicated to investigating all lines of enquiry. They are focused on investigating how and why the fire started and spread; the emergency response on 14th June 2017; the construction and refurbishment of Grenfell Tower; and the management of Grenfell Tower. They are also fully engaged with the public inquiry. To give an idea of the scale and complexity, they are dealing with approximately 460 companies who have been identified as having some involvement in work on Grenfell Tower, and processing an estimated 35 million documents.

The Police are planning to arrange a briefing event in August, specifically for the bereaved and survivors, to update you on their investigation and answer any queries you may have.

Public Inquiry

We also wanted to acknowledge how difficult the last two weeks have been at the Inquiry, particularly for those who have bravely told their stories of unimaginable loss and grief. Please be assured that these stories of loved ones remain at the forefront of all of our thinking going forward.

Wrapping of the Tower

We are committed to working with you; the bereaved and survivors, as well as the wider community on the appropriate use of the Tower wrapping for remembrance, including for the forthcoming commemorations for one year on.

Discussions started last year which led to a commitment that the wrapping would ensure that the Tower is not lost against London's skyline and forgotten. This was out of respect for the views and concerns of the bereaved and survivors. Discussions are ongoing and the site management team are continuing to explore options that enable us to remember the terrible events at Grenfell Tower in a sensitive way.

In order to allow for appropriate remembrance for the forthcoming one year commemorations, plans are being developed with representatives of the bereaved and survivors. Our intention is to wrap the Tower with banners at the top featuring the green Grenfell heart and illuminate the Tower in green on the evenings of the 13th and 14th June. This will coincide with the 24 hour vigil being held at St Clement James. Other buildings in the area and across London will be illuminated from sunset of the 14th June to mark the passing of one year since the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

We are separately informing the local community on the plans for the Tower wrapping and ensuring that these do not cause disruption to local people.

Future of the Grenfell Tower Site

On the future of the Grenfell Tower site, the Government is clear that the community shall lead the decision-making. This was firmly established by a set of principles agreed by the Government, representatives of the bereaved, survivors and community and Kensington and Chelsea Council and published on 1st March.

Work is now being taken forward with representatives of the bereaved, survivors and community to agree the scope and remit of the community-led process for what should happen to the Grenfell Tower site in the future. We hope to agree the detailed process for decision-making, and how the bereaved, survivors and community can be involved, and to set this out in the near future.

We understand the concerns, particularly from bereaved families, about how decisions on Grenfell Tower will be made, prior to the outcome of the process to determine the future of the site. I would like to make it clear that no decision has yet been taken on whether, and if so when, the Tower will be deconstructed.

Rehousing

As we approach one year on, we are deeply concerned that there are a number of residents still living in emergency accommodation. We have been meeting with some of you to better understand your circumstances, along with the Council and agencies such as the NHS, to help you move into settled accommodation.

We have been clear with the Council that living in a hotel room for an extended period of time is unsuitable and we are continuing to press them to provide as much support as is needed to all households.

We know that some of you have accepted permanent homes and are waiting for repairs on your new homes to be completed. We have spoken to the Chief Executive of Mitie (who are carrying out the majority of works) and stressed the importance of this programme of works; it is important that the repairs to your homes are completed not only as quickly as possible but also to the highest safety standards. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is closely monitoring and challenging the pace of repairs, and we will continue to press the Council to ensure everything possible is being done to expedite this. Furthermore, the Independent Taskforce has been asked to provide additional monitoring of this issue.

If there are any issues which are affecting you and you need advice or support, please contact us at the 'GrenfellCorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk' email address.



RT HON JAMES BROKENSHIRE MP



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