



Home Office

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister for Grenfell Victims
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Service

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Dear all,

I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you and set out my role and priorities as Minister for Grenfell Victims going forward and provide some information on how I intend to make myself available to you over the coming months. In addition, I wanted to update you on some progress that has been made to ensure there is a fitting memorial to the Grenfell Tower tragedy. This work is being driven by representatives of the bereaved, survivors and the wider community and is being supported by Government.

My role as Minister for Grenfell Victims

When I was appointed it was with the intention of ensuring that those affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy, specifically the bereaved and former Tower and Walk residents, had the opportunity to voice concerns directly with Government as well as influence the decision-makers responsible for supporting them. This has not changed, however as we have now entered a new phase of recovery and legacy my immediate priorities have altered accordingly into the following areas of focus:

- Continuing my engagement with the bereaved, survivors and wider community to ensure that their views influence both local and national decision-makers. This includes engaging with organisations that advocate on their behalf or deliver services to them. This approach will help ensure the delivery of an effective recovery plan, which is driven by the needs of those most affected by the tragedy.
- Putting the community at the heart of decisions about the future of the site. I will ensure that the bereaved, survivors and wider community lead decision-making as described in the Principles relating to the future of the site. This will include the work of the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission. This also includes championing the Lancaster West estate refurbishment, where my focus will be to ensure that the refurbishment is delivered in collaboration with the residents of the Lancaster West estate.

Continuing my engagement

In order for me to support those affected as they move into permanent housing and continued discussions with RBKC on your resettlement offer, my continued contact with bereaved and survivors remains a key priority. On top of my on going meetings with organisations that advocate on your behalf, my team will start arranging times when I, alongside RBKC's community contact teams, will be available for individual appointments at the Malton Rd Hub, Curve, Westminster College or Kensington and

Chelsea College. If you wish to have a meeting please email grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gov.uk

I also intend to make a series of visits, in the upcoming months, to local voluntary organisations and faith groups to better understand the issues facing them.

Lastly, my team will also be available at Baseline studios every Tuesday from 12pm-8pm to talk to local residents about a range of issues including the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission and the management of Grenfell Tower. This is a drop-in service and no appointments are required.

Putting the community at the heart of decisions about the future of the site

The Prime Minister has given her personal commitment that the bereaved, survivors and wider community will lead the decision making process regarding the long term future of the site. This has been formalised in a set of written principles.

As you know Government and representatives of the bereaved, survivors and immediate North Kensington community (specifically the Lancaster West Estate) have agreed to establish the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission to deliver this commitment. Its purpose is to deliver a community-led proposal for:

- what happens to the Grenfell Tower site in the future, assumed to be a fitting memorial to remember those who lost their lives; and
- how the memorial site will be owned and sustainably managed for the long term.

The Memorial Commission will be made up of representatives of the bereaved, survivors and residents from the Lancaster West estate – together with relevant public authorities, seeking the views of the wider North Kensington area through its consultation process. The Commission's work is expected to take a minimum of a year after which it will publish a report setting out its findings.

The details of the Commission, including its purpose, scope and makeup, will be announced this week. My team will shortly write to the bereaved, survivors and residents of the Lancaster West estate to set out the process for selecting their community representatives.

I also wanted to let you know that the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, in New York, would like to present the Grenfell community with a seedling grown from the Callery pear tree that stood on the original World Trade Centre Plaza. The tree survived the tragedy and so the Museum annually donate seedlings from it to communities that have faced and overcome tragedies.

No decision has been taken yet in relation to this but going forward, the seedling could be used to form part of the longer term Grenfell memorial and could be included and considered alongside any design proposals for the site, if this is the community's wish. Further information on this announcement can be found through their website www.911memorial.org/survivor-tree-seedling-program

Ensuring the delivery of an effective recovery plan

The Council and the NHS recognise the depth of the tragedy and have publicly set out their ambitions to demonstrate their commitment to the recovery for the long term. They are working closely with other partners including Government to develop the commitments, and my role as Minister for Grenfell Victims is to offer both support and challenge the future recovery plans.

I understand that RBKC are discussing the proposed recovery services for the bereaved and survivors with Grenfell United, and that they will be running consultation events so that you can feed-in your views. I am working with the Council to understand how your needs drive their thinking.

Championing the Lancaster West estate refurbishment

Lastly, Government has contributed £15 million, to be matched by the Council, to invest into the Lancaster West Estate around Grenfell Tower to make it a model for social housing. I will be regularly visiting the Lancaster West Estate, to gain an understanding of both residents and the council's view of progress.

May I reiterate the Government's commitment to for as long as you need us. If there are any issues you need advice or support with, please contact us by writing to grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP