

Questions and Answers on Air and Soil Safety Around Grenfell Tower

Q

Is the air around Grenfell Tower safe to breathe?

A

The air around Grenfell is checked continuously and we have not found extra pollution caused by the Grenfell fire which would add to health risks. Like many parts of London, air quality around Grenfell can be affected by pollution due to heavy traffic and gas-fired boilers.

Q

Is the land around Grenfell Tower safe?

A

Air quality monitoring has not identified any cause for concern. However, we understand that local people are worried, so the Government is bringing forward testing of the soil around Grenfell for possible harmful pollution.

Q

Is it safe to grow fruit and vegetables around Grenfell Tower?

A

You should wash your hands after gardening, working or playing in soil, and wash and peel home-grown fruit and vegetables. This advice applies to soil across London and is not a result of Grenfell.

Q

Are the grass, playgrounds and football pitches around Grenfell safe for children to play in?

A

Air quality monitoring has not identified any cause for concern. However, we understand that local people are worried, so the Government is bringing forward testing of the soil around Grenfell for possible harmful pollution.

Q

What are you doing now to check soil safety?

A

The Government is managing a programme of soil testing to ensure local residents have the best information about soil safety in their area. This is being planned now and should get under way soon. We hope to have the first results in spring 2019.

Q

When and where will the testing take place?

A

This is being worked on now.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Public Health
England



West London
Clinical Commissioning Group



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Q

How will the community be involved?

A

We are committed to making sure local people are involved in the testing process. We hope to provide more details shortly on how this will work.

Q

What is being done about soil in community kitchen gardens?

A

Soil in community kitchen gardens is replaced regularly every four to five years. The evidence from air quality monitoring is that there is no need to replace it on health grounds. However, the Council is happy to do so if that would reassure people. Please contact **environment@rbkc.gov.uk** or call William Rallison on **07739 365 470**.

Q

What is being done to protect us from dust blowing out of the Tower?

A

The Tower is wrapped to reduce the amount of dust escaping. The air around the Tower is monitored continuously. The results, and general health advice, are published online at **www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire**. The results have not given any cause for concern.

Q

When are you going to move debris currently being stored in garages under the Walkways?

A

The team managing the Grenfell Tower site are making preparations to move this debris. The first containers will leave the site in the next few weeks and will be taken to a secure site. Further details will be provided before the process begins. The process will be carefully managed with all necessary precautions taken to ensure environmental and road safety. While the debris remains on the site, it is being stored safely and carefully monitored. All monitoring to date has not shown any cause for concern.

Q

What should I do if I have concerns about my health?

A

Please go to your GP. They are best placed to assess your needs and refer you to the right specialist care.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Public Health
England



West London
Clinical Commissioning Group



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



What will the enhanced health checks that the NHS is introducing involve?

The local NHS will soon be offering enhanced health checks for North Kensington residents. The NHS has been speaking to various local groups about what needs to be included, and these conversations are influencing the development of the service. The checks will be carried out through local GP surgeries and in the community. They will include a comprehensive review of overall physical and mental health and testing of breathing through spirometry, with a particular focus on health promotion and holistic care.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns, you should speak to your GP who will assess your needs and refer you to a specialist service as needed.



How is the £50m announced by NHS England for post-Grenfell support going to be spent?

This will pay for long-term mental and physical care and health and wellbeing services, as well as enhanced monitoring and a health check-up programme. The NHS will work in partnership with the local community to design and deliver services that are appropriate and are able to meet local need.



What has the Government done since the public meeting?

- It has set up an expert multi-agency group which includes the Environment Agency, Public Health England, Kensington and Chelsea Council and NHS England to make sure soil surveying around Grenfell Tower is comprehensive and that analysis will be provided to the public.
- It has started procuring the relevant expertise this week (26 November) to undertake the site investigation. These will be independent specialists appointed on the basis of their environmental expertise. They will be chosen from a network of leading experts and overseen by the expert multi-agency group.
- The specialists will be appointed in the next week.
- Once selected, the specialists will proactively engage the community on the design and implementation of the testing process. This will take place in the new year.
- It is backing a new testing programme for soil alongside continuing existing air monitoring as well as an effective health monitoring programme via the NHS.
- The NHS has run health drop-in events within the local area for those who are concerned about their health.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Public Health
England



West London
Clinical Commissioning Group



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



How will the community be involved?

- The Government is committed to engaging residents with the investigation process from start to finish.
- It is running weekly drop-in sessions at The Curve every Tuesday afternoon with Government officials to discuss the programme, ask questions and meet the independent consultants.
- There will be opportunities to contribute information and areas of concern to inform the initial assessments via an online inquiry form and residents survey.
- Consultation workshops will take place in the new year to inform the scope and locations of the main site investigation and sampling.
- For those who do not want to attend sessions, community members can contact **environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk** with any concerns or questions they may have.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Public Health
England



West London
Clinical Commissioning Group



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

English

Information from this document can be made available in alternative formats and in different languages. If you require further assistance please use the contact details below.

Arabic

يمكن توفير المعلومات التي وردت في هذا المستند بصيغ بديلة ولغات اخرى. إذا كنت في حاجة إلى مزيد من المساعدة، الرجاء استخدام بيانات الاتصال الواردة أدناه.

Farsi

اطلاعات حاوی در این مدارک به صورتهای دیگر و به زبانهای مختلف در دسترس می باشد. در صورت نیاز به کمک بیشتر لطفا از جزئیات تماس ذکر شده در ذیل استفاده کنید.

French

Les informations présentées dans ce document peuvent vous être fournies dans d'autres formats et d'autres langues. Si vous avez besoin d'une aide complémentaire, veuillez utiliser les coordonnées ci-dessous.

Portuguese

A informação presente neste documento pode ser disponibilizada em formatos alternativos e em línguas diferentes. Se desejar mais assistência, use por favor os contactos fornecidos abaixo.

Somali

Macluumaadka dokumentigan waxaa lagu heli karaa qaabab kale iyo luuqado kala duwan. Haddii aad u baahan tahay caawinaad intaas dhaafsiisan fadlan isticmaal xiriirka faahfaahinta hoose.

Spanish

La información en este documento puede facilitarse en formatos alternativos y en diferentes idiomas. Si necesita más ayuda por favor utilice la siguiente información de contacto.

Grenfellenquiries@rbkc.gov.uk

or phone **020 7745 6414**