



HM Government

**The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**

*Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*

**Nick Hurd MP**

*Minister for Grenfell Victims*

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

4th Floor, Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

[grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dclg](http://www.gov.uk/dclg)

21 November 2017

**A version of this letter will be published on gov.uk. If you would like these to be sent to you directly, please email [grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:grenfellcorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk)**

Dear all,

Some of you may have noticed changes in the timing of these letters. Through the summer, we were writing to you every two weeks, usually on a Tuesday. We will continue to write to you every two weeks, but responding to feedback from some of you, and to ensure we can give you the most complete and useful update possible, the day within that week may change.

As we have said to you before, we will continue to write to you for as long as you feel is needed.

### **Housing**

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) continues to work on securing suitable housing stock, so that those of you who have yet to find a home that is right for you will be able to do so as soon as possible. As properties become available they will continue to be put on the choice-based letting system as soon as possible.

As you are hopefully already aware, to make the move from emergency to permanent accommodation easier for all those who lost their homes, RBKC has announced some further support. This includes extending the rent-free period – no matter the form of accommodation you are currently in – until 1 July 2019, and you will all be given relief from service and utility charges and council tax during this period too.

RBKC has also agreed to continue the financial allowance you have access to while in emergency accommodation upon leaving. This will ensure you have the equivalent support available for the first three months and then you will be able to access a

reduced allowance for a further three months. For further information, you can speak with your Housing officer or the Care for Grenfell team.

For those of you from the Walkways, RBKC has recently launched a permanent rehousing consultation on the various options available. We understand that RBKC is contacting you directly or through your housing officers to gather your views over the next four weeks.

### **Support available**

Last week, the Metropolitan Police and the Coroner met with some of you in advance of the final inquest being opened this week. They announced they have identified the final two victims of the tragedy, bringing the total to 71 who lost their lives in the unspeakable tragedy.

While it cannot undo what happened, we hope that many of you can begin to get even a small amount of closure from this. As we have said before, Central and North West London NHS Trust have been on the ground providing support from the beginning, and you can find further information on the support available from them in the enclosed leaflet.

Minister Hurd has continued meeting with many of you to hear your concerns and help you access the support you need. Our teams work closely with RBKC to resolve any issues raised. You can get in touch with the relevant teams by emailing [GrenfellCorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:GrenfellCorrespondence@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### **The Tower and surrounding area**

Last week, many of you met with Minister Hurd and Michael Lockwood, the member of the Grenfell Response Team who has been leading the site management work, to discuss the wrapping of the tower and potential future plans. The wrapping will now continue and both Minister Hurd and Michael are working with you to work through the best options for this.

As we have both said before, it is of the utmost importance to us that the future of the site is led by the community, for the community – and by that we mean, you are in the driving seat for decisions related to it. We are both working with Michael, the Prime Minister and RBKC to ensure the appropriate mechanisms are in place to allow for this, and we will let you know the ways we can best support this in the coming weeks.

### **The independent Recovery Taskforce**

We hope that by now, you have all seen the initial report from the independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce. The Secretary of State wrote an accompanying letter to you all at the time of publishing. If you did not receive this, you can find it on gov.uk: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/65745](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65745)

[5/171106 - Letter to residents.pdf](#)

The taskforce will report again to the Secretary of State in the New Year.

We both know that five months on from the tragic events of that night, many of you are still grieving, still angry and still unable to begin rebuilding your lives. We understand that this all takes time and it is important that you are allowed to move at your own pace.

During this time, we will continue to listen, and take action where necessary, to ensure you receive the support you need. We are working with RBKC, supporting them and watching their progress carefully; providing advice, scrutiny and – where needed – pushing on your behalf.

**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**

**NICK HURD MP**