

Grenfell Fire Response News

Message from John Barradell and Eleanor Kelly, Grenfell Fire Response Team

"We are continuing to do everything we can to ensure that victims of the terrible fire receive the support that they need, while not underestimating the complexity of the task and the work that lies ahead.

"Our focus now is on securing longer-term housing in the local area by working round the clock to identify suitable high quality accommodation. We are confident that every family will have received a housing offer within the three week deadline set by the Prime Minister, although we will give people the space they need to make decisions that are right for them and their family."

Prime Minister addresses Grenfell Tower fire in PMQs today

The Grenfell Tower fire was raised in today's Prime Minister's Question Time for the first since the general election.

Theresa May said that 282 good quality temporary properties have been identified for victims of the Grenfell Tower disaster, 132 families have had their needs assessed, and 65 offers of temporary accommodation have been made.

She also said the Government has provided nearly £1.25 million in discretionary payments and will be giving an extra £1 million to a local group of charities, trusts and foundations "which have been doing such important work."

The PM said she expects to name a judge for the public inquiry into the disaster "soon". He or she will be a neutral figure who will be charged with looking into a range of issues around the fire and is expected to make a number of recommendations afterwards.

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What is this newsletter for?

This is the sixth edition of the Grenfell Fire Response Team newsletter. We want to keep you up to date with all the latest information and services available to help. For up to the minute info, please follow us on Twitter

@grenfellsupport and on Facebook at **facebook.com/grenfellsupport** or visit **www.gov.uk**

Bereavement support

Freephone helpline
0808 808 1677
24 hours a day.

helpline@cruse.org.uk

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries

0300 222 0000
(outside the UK
+44(0)300 222 0000)
24 hour advice line.

Air quality and smoke exposure

People who have concerns about any symptoms should seek medical advice or call **NHS 111**.

NHS Mental health support

0800 0234 650
24 hours a day.

cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net

VICTIM SUPPORT

Free emotional and practical support for anyone affected.

0808 1689 111
24 hours a day.

victimsupport.org.uk

Shop for Grenfell

British Red Cross and community volunteers are now working hard to sort and distribute excess clothes, so they can be sold to raise money for those affected by the fire. Donated items will be labelled 'Shop for Grenfell' and every penny raised from sales will go to the London Fire Relief Fund, to help those left injured, bereaved or homeless.

If you have questions about financial support, please speak to your key worker or call the British Red Cross support line on **0800 458 9472**.

Transport update

Since 26 June, TFL has been operating a free shuttle bus service between the Community Assistance Centre, at the Westway Sports Centre and the hotels where large numbers of families have been temporarily housed. Timetables for the bus routes are available at hotels.

Services are now running normally between Wood Lane and Edgware Road as the part-suspension of the Circle and Hammersmith and City lines has now been lifted.

Taken as a safety measure following the Grenfell Tower incident, the part-suspension was lifted by Transport for London on Sunday, in consultation with London Fire Brigade and the Office of Rail and Road, after tests concluded trains nearby do not disturb the building or present a risk to the public.

Commuters can expect a full return to services on these lines.

Cricket legends rally together in support of Grenfell victims

A charity cricket match to raise funds for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire was held last night in west London.

The Lashings All-Stars brought together a number of legends from the cricketing world including Saqlain Mushtaq, Monty Panesar, and Gordon Greenidge, which raised £5,000 for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire and the emergency services.

All of the proceeds from the match, organised in conjunction with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), will be going to the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund to support those affected by the tragedy at Grenfell.

If you'd like to donate, visit www.dispossessedfund.org.uk

Government urges everyone to come forward for help

The Home Office has said that it will not take immigration action against undocumented migrants affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

All victims of the tragedy are being encouraged to access the services they need, including accommodation and healthcare.

The Police and Fire Brigade is also asking for as much information as possible on the people in Grenfell Tower on the evening of 14 June, to help them identify victims.

Visa and passport support

Have you lost a passport or visa documents? Are you worried about your immigration status and need support?

The UK Visa and Immigration and Her Majesty's Passport Office teams are here to help and support you. You can talk to us at the Westway Sports and Fitness Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP from 9am to 9pm. Translators are available if needed. Likewise, if you want someone to talk for you, please bring them along and we will talk to them.

We will do everything we can to help you. We are not using this tragic incident to carry out immigration checks on those involved or those providing vital information about victims.

We will also make sure that all victims, irrespective of their immigration status, are able to access the support and services they need, including accommodation and healthcare. This includes replacing lost passports and visas as quickly as possible.

You can also call our advice line 24 hours a day on **0300 222 0000** to arrange for a call back by our specialist visa and passport teams.

For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/grenfell-tower

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home offering temporary homes for pets

If you have a pet that has been affected by the Grenfell fire, or if you have been evacuated from your home as a result of the fire, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home can provide a temporary home for your animals until you're able to take them back.

Any residents with pets who need help from Battersea can call the charity on **020 7627 9217**.

What help is on offer?

If you come to the Assistance Centre at **Westway Sports Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP** you will be able to access services and support provided by the team from 9am to 11pm.

A Red Cross helpline is in action to help give practical or emotional support to anyone who needs it.

The number is

0800 458 9472.

This is available 24 hours a day but we are looking at reviewing these hours based on need. If you have any feedback please email **support@grenfellresponse.org**

Any family and friends concerned about their loved ones are asked to contact the Metropolitan Police on **0800 032 4539**.

If you have been affected and have any other questions about the support available, please email **support@grenfellresponse.org**

Please do not send any personal data like bank details or your address to this email account – rest assured when we contact you, we'll get any additional information we need.

Westway Assistance Centre Update

The Westway Sports Centre remains the place to go for anyone affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. The Centre is open between 9am to 11pm and over 100 people are here providing help services including immediate and long term NHS emotional support, financial support, benefits advice and travel support. Residents are also able to pick up newly printed documents, get a new passport photo, collect their post and access donated food and clothes.

Liz Bruce, Rest Centre Manager, said: *“We want to welcome people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire, we are ready to help regardless of their personal circumstances. If you know anybody who needs help but is yet to come here, please call the Red Cross helpline on 0800 4589472.”*

You can find all services at the Westway Sports Centre, 1 Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP.

Frequently asked questions

Will the benefits of people who get £5,500 from the fund be affected?

No. The benefit payments of people who receive this fund will not be affected.

Are people in emergency housing being put in tower blocks?

No. People are being temporarily housed in hotel accommodation in or close to the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Are people been forced out of the borough, or being made intentionally homeless?

No one is being forced to move out of London, or being threatened with being made homeless. We're working to find the right accommodation for those affected residents, either in Kensington and Chelsea or neighbouring boroughs.

Are people affected by the fire being asked for ID at the assessment centre?

People affected by the fire were issued letters informing them of the process to access funding and we have asked them to show this letter as some people may have had their IDs destroyed in the fire. This is to ensure those who need support get it. They should not be asked for their ID

What will happen to anyone who isn't documented but lived in the tower?

Support will be provided to all those residents whose homes have been destroyed in the fire. We will not use this tragic incident as a reason to carry out immigration checks on those involved and those providing vital information to identify victims.

We will also make sure that all victims, irrespective of their immigration status, will be able to access the services they need, including accommodation and healthcare.