

Grenfell Fire Response News

Consultation deadline for Grenfell Inquiry extended

It has been confirmed that consultation period for the Inquiry's terms of reference has been extended.

Following discussions with a range of interested parties, in particular survivors of the fire and other residents of the Lancaster West estate, it has become clear that there is a need for more time to respond to the Inquiry's consultation on its terms of reference.

As a result the consultation period is being extended by two weeks until 28 July. This will provide additional time for people to respond meaningfully and ensuring the Inquiry's work, which cannot begin without terms of reference, can progress quickly.

Details of meetings open to survivors and local residents, to discuss the terms of reference, will be announced shortly.

The Inquiry is chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, and will be supported by a team of lawyers, and civil servants drawn from a range of Government departments.

Richard Millett QC has been appointed as Counsel to the Inquiry. He has extensive experience of handling complex commercial disputes in a range of specialist areas, with an emphasis on advocacy in court, arbitration and other tribunals. He also sits as a Deputy High Court Judge. The role of Counsel to the Inquiry takes various forms, including presenting evidence and questioning witnesses at hearings. Counsel will also provide legal advice to the Chairman and advise on evidential matters during the course of the Inquiry.

An experienced team of lawyers and civil servants will support the inquiry, including:

Bernard Richmond QC

Bernard was called to the Bar in 1988 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2006. He is a criminal defence specialist with substantial experience of cases involving vulnerable people. He also sits as an Assistant Coroner.

Kate Grange QC

Kate was called to the Bar in 1998 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2017. She has particular expertise in relation to commercial, construction, public and inquiry law.

Caroline Featherstone, Solicitor to the Inquiry

Caroline Featherstone qualified as a registered nurse in 1986. She worked in the NHS until she changed career in 1998 when she started working as a solicitor. Having spent some years working in private practice, Caroline joined the Government Legal Department in 2006 and was most recently a Deputy Director leading a large litigation team.

Mark Fisher, Secretary to the Inquiry

Mark Fisher started work as Director General and Secretary to the Inquiry on 26 June 2017. He was previously Director of the Office for Civil Society and Innovation in the Cabinet Office. Mark has been in public service for 34 years, mainly in the Department for Work and Pensions.

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What is this newsletter for?

This is the seventeenth 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.

The newsletter is also available in Arabic and Farsi languages. For up to the minute info, please follow us on Twitter [@grenfellsupport](https://twitter.com/grenfellsupport) and on Facebook at facebook.com/grenfellsupport or visit www.gov.uk

Housing update

Finding housing solutions that work for everyone directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire remains our absolute priority and we are working hard to achieve this.

Offers of temporary accommodation are being made on a daily basis, but we know that families will have concerns around this process and the idea of accepting a temporary home. So far, 163 offers of accommodation have been made, 22 offers have been accepted and four families rehoused.

For some people, it's still too soon to make such a major decision. For others, there are all sorts of considerations to take into account, such as the needs of elderly relatives, proximity to schools, and dealing with historical overcrowding. Choosing a temporary home for families that have undergone unimaginable loss and trauma is a big decision, and we are at pains to ensure they have the time to select a home that is right for them at a time that is right for them.

Government has given commitments to help reassure families that:

- their needs are paramount, all other considerations are secondary to these
- their rent will not increase and the same terms and conditions of their previous home at Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk will be maintained
- they will have lifetime security of tenure
- they will not be forced to stay in temporary accommodation on a long-term basis
- accepting an offer of temporary accommodation does not mean that they lose priority for a permanent home
- no one has to accept a particular property and not accepting a property does not mean that they will be made intentionally homeless
- temporary homes will be rent and utility bill free for 12 months
- for some cases, if they like their temporary home, there is the potential for it to become their permanent home (this will be discussed when the home is offered to them).

More information is available on the housing line on **020 7361 3008**.

What help is on offer?

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

Other important contacts

Bereavement support: Call the Freephone helpline on **0808 808 1677** or email helpline@cruse.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries

Call our advice line on **0300 222 0000**. The line is open 24 hours.

Air quality and smoke exposure:

If you have concerns about any symptoms, please see your doctor or call NHS **111**.

NHS Mental health support:

Call **0800 0234 650** or email cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net for mental health support. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Victim support:

Call **0808 1689 111** for practical and emotional support, or visit victimsupport.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

You can also get physical and mental support at the Assistance Centre, Westway Sports & Fitness Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP, open from 10am to 8pm. Find out more by calling **07712 231 133**.

You can also call the Red Cross helpline on **0800 458 9472**.

The line is open from 8am to 8pm.

For regular updates please follow us on Twitter at [@grenfellsupport](https://twitter.com/grenfellsupport) and on Facebook at facebook.com/grenfellsupport, or visit www.gov.uk

Support for children

The Grenfell Tower fire has left lots of young people worried and upset. You might be feeling emotionally vulnerable, or somebody you know, may have been affected by the fire.

The Good Grief Trust aims to ensure that young people can talk to someone and get free, confidential support. A programme of events will be taking place this summer allow young people to have fun and receive one-to-one support if they have been affected by the Grenfell tower fire. Details of these events will be shared in the near future.

Young people under 25 can call Childline any time on **0800 1111** or have a one-to-one online chat with an advisor at www.childline.org.uk

Young people can also call the Samaritans helpline on **116 123**. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Health update

Public Health England (PHE) is continuing to provide specialist advice on health following the Grenfell Tower fire. This includes health advice on air quality, smoke exposure, asbestos, water quality and the handling of any waste materials and debris.

Asbestos

Public Health England (PHE) is reassuring the public there is no increased presence of asbestos in the air in the area around Grenfell Tower.

Dr Deborah Turbitt, health protection director for Public Health England in London, said:

“We are monitoring for asbestos at three locations close to Grenfell Tower and initial results have not shown an asbestos risk. The current monitoring locations are Grenfell Walk, Grenfell Road, and Silchester Road, and these locations will be varied so that they are as representative as possible of the nearby residential areas to Grenfell Tower. The wider risk to people’s physical health as a result of the fire, beyond those directly affected, remains low. In addition, occupational monitoring for asbestos has been undertaken for those working within Grenfell Tower. Asbestos has not been found at concentrations that could pose a risk to workers, which provides additional evidence that the risk to public health is low.”

Air quality

The risk to people’s health from air pollution around the site is low. PHE is constantly monitoring air quality and the latest readings show the air pollution level near the site continues to be low. Air quality monitors were installed in the immediate area of Grenfell Tower, with additional equipment being put in to support ongoing monitoring.

Water quality

Drinking water quality has not been impacted by the fire and tap water is safe to drink and use as normal. If anyone has any concerns regarding their drinking water quality, they should contact the local water company in the first instance.

Waste materials and debris

If you have waste material or debris from the fire at your property, please contact the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council on **020 7361 3001** to make arrangements for them to collect it.

Air purifiers

Air purifiers, which are generally used to reduce allergens from pets from the air, are not recommended for use in this situation because larger particles produced during the fire will have already settled and not be present in the air. Larger dust particles settle quickly onto surfaces and are best removed with a damp cloth.

More advice from Public Health England can be found online at www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

Community engagement

For regular community engagement updates, please contact the dedicated email address. If you know anyone who might be interested in hearing updates, please let them know to email us at Communityengagement@grenfellresponse.org

Books of condolence now at the Westway

Volunteers, survivors and members of the public are recording their respects to the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire in two books of condolence at the Westway.

A book for members of the public has been placed at the main entrance to the Westway Sports Centre, while there is also a book for survivors and volunteers in place at the dedicated Westway Assistance Centre.

Roisin, a volunteer at the centre, said: “It means a lot to the local community and volunteers to have books of condolence at the centre so we can pay our respects and come together to show our support. It’s nice to be able to help out in any way that we can as volunteers at a time when people are going through such a difficult time.”

If volunteers and those directly affected by the fire wish to record their respects, the Westway Assistance Centre is open every day between 10am and 8pm.

The book of condolence in the Westway Sports Centre is available to be signed by members of the public during sports centre opening hours.

Frequently asked questions

Will victims have to pay for outstanding utility bills?

The Government and utility companies have announced a package of support for Grenfell victims across energy, water and telecommunications. This includes suppliers agreeing to write off outstanding utility bills for victims of the fire, and the support comes on top of the £5 million fund to pay for emergency supplies, food, clothes and other costs. Further details can be found online at <https://goo.gl/yhcniU>

How can people find their post?

Mail for Grenfell Tower can be collected from Royal Mail's West London Delivery Office, Unit 20–23, West London Delivery Office, Premier Park Road, NW10 7NZ (open Mon to Fri 8am to 2pm and Sat 8am to 1pm). Mail collection is also available by prior arrangement on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the Royal Mail desk at the Westway Sports Centre.

Please call **01752 387055** to make a mail collection arrangement. ID is required to collect your mail.

Will my eligibility for benefits be affected if I receive the £5,500?

The Department for Work and Pensions have said that your income-related benefits won't be affected by payments from the fund. Other benefits, such as Personal Independence Payments, won't be affected either and any payments from the emergency fund will not be taxed.

For all other contacts, please consult our leaflet.

'Spread the Love for Grenfell' music event

A night of live music, featuring reggae stars, hip-hop artists and DJs is being held on Friday 14 July to honour the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

The 'Spread the Love for Grenfell' event is taking place at the Fox and Firkin, 316 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6JZ, from 8pm to 2am.

Entry is free with donations being taken on the door to raise money for those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

Find out more online at www.foxfirkin.com/events

Legal aid for residents

Legal Aid is available to help people made homeless by the Grenfell Tower fire, and funding is also available to families to support them as they prepare for inquests. We encourage any family affected by the tragedy to apply for funding, which is granted by the independent Legal Aid Agency.

You can find out more about legal aid online at www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid

Covering Grenfell Tower

Views from local residents are being considered on the viability of covering the Grenfell Tower in tarpaulin. Any final decision will need to consider its impact on the critical recovery operation being undertaken by the Metropolitan Police Service and London Fire Brigade.

Love Grenfell logo on hoardings

Since yesterday, the hoardings near Kensington Leisure Centre have been decorated with the 'Love Grenfell' logo.

This design is based on London Underground's famous round logo, with the text in the middle replaced with 'Grenfell'. This new symbol merges the familiar sign with the #AHeart4London movement.

The logo was originally developed by designer Charlie Crockett and stylist Kyle Devolle as part of the Love4Grenfell Campaign.

The decision to decorate the hoardings with the logo took place in consultation with local residents. Panels on the hoarding alternate between those with the logo, and blank panels that have been reserved to allow local community groups to add their own artwork over the coming days.

More details on this will follow in the near future.



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