

MAYOR OF LONDON

Dany Cotton QFSM

Commissioner
London Fire Brigade
169 Union Street
London SE1 0LL

Date: 21 JUN 2017

Dear Dany,

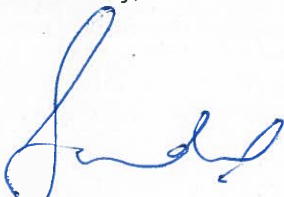
The Grenfell Tower fire has shocked the whole country. The ferocity of the blaze and the number of people who so tragically lost their lives has stunned all of London.

No one can fail to have been inspired by the selfless bravery of the firefighters who risked their own safety to save the lives of others. On behalf of the whole city, I would like to thank you and all your colleagues at the London Fire Brigade (LFB) for your amazing work on the night of the fire, and in the days afterwards.

The Prime Minister has announced there will be a public inquiry into the fire but I do think it is crucial that lessons learnt for LFB are taken on board at as early a stage as possible. This was a very large and challenging fire, and with the growth of tall buildings in the city, coupled to an ageing stock of towers constructed in the post war period, the public need confidence that they will kept safe in cases of fire.

I would value the opportunity of an early meeting with you and the Chair of LFEPA, in addition to our regular catch-ups, to hear your assessment of what the LFB needs by way of new or additional equipment and support in order to meet the challenges of the future. If you are agreeable to this suggestion, I will ask my office to liaise with yours over a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Fiona Twycross AM, Chair (LFEPA)

MAYOR OF LONDON

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department
The Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Date: 12 JUL 2017



Further to my letter dated 25 April 2017, I write regarding a number of concerns I have about the resourcing of the fire service in London, following recent events. I will deal with each of these in turn.

Grenfell Tower Fire

The Grenfell Tower fire has shocked the world. No one can fail to have been inspired by the bravery of our firefighters who risked their own lives to save others. I know you have met some of the firefighters and the control staff and have heard their accounts of events on the night of the fire and, subsequently, like me, you cannot fail to have been moved by what you have heard.

I meet regularly with Dany Cotton, the London Fire Commissioner, and have thanked her and the London Fire Brigade (LFB) for their amazing response to the fire.

In order to learn from the fire, I asked her to review specialist equipment and support the LFB requires in order to assist their task of rescue and recovery in future major incidents

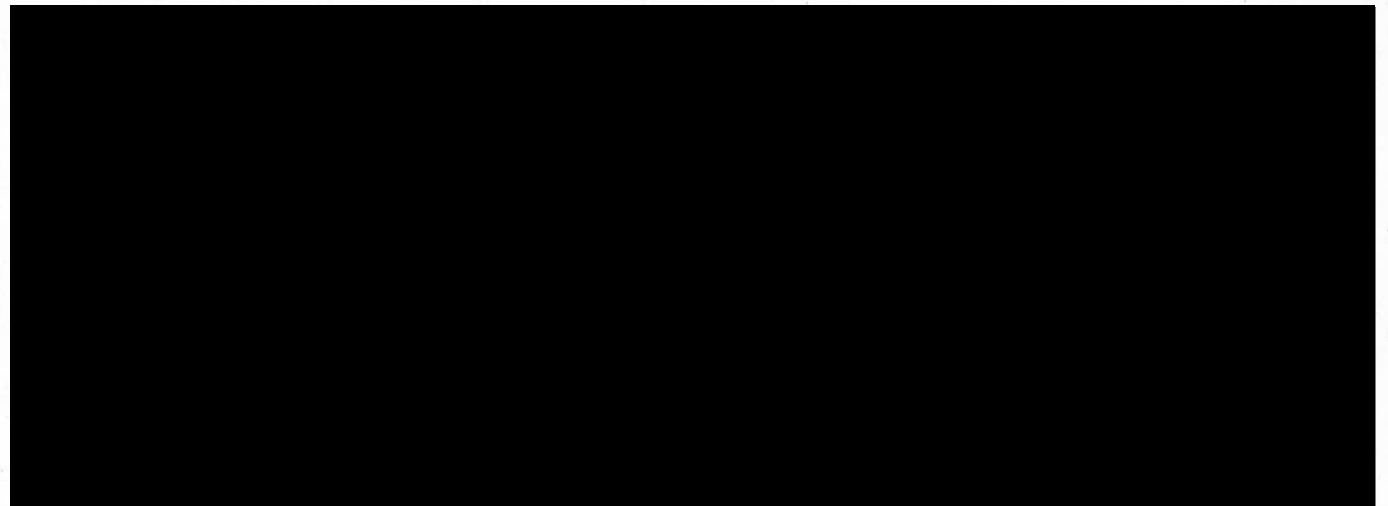
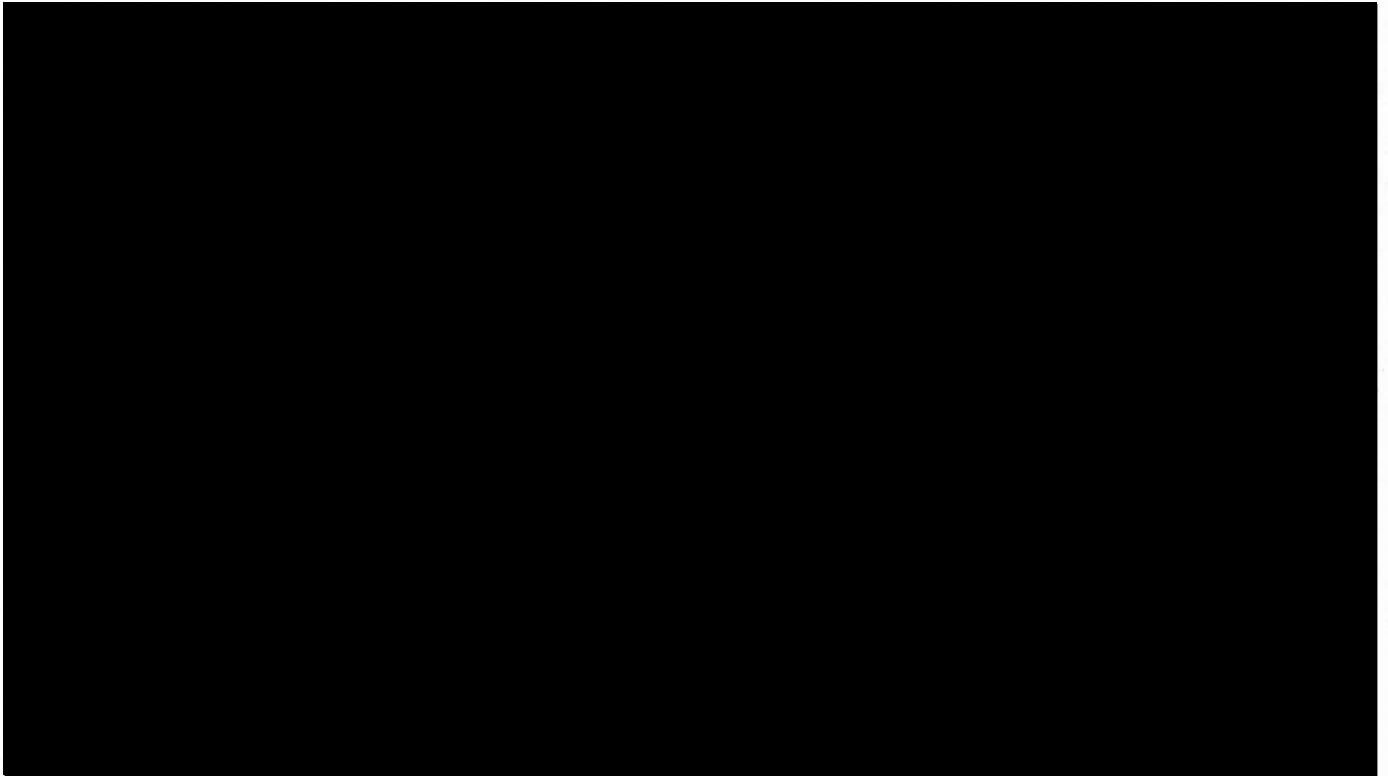
The Commissioner has undertaken an initial assessment of this and has indicated that London's Fire Brigade will need a range of new specialist equipment at an estimated cost of £6m in order to ensure that they are fully prepared for the challenges ahead. In addition, there are a number of additional costs related to staffing and the inquiry and investigation team that will also need additional resourcing. In total the Brigade estimate that the additional staffing and maintenance of the new equipment could have an ongoing cost of £6m per annum.

Furthermore, the Commissioner has indicated that a number of the ways in which the brigade had anticipated meeting the future budget gap are no longer viable, and would leave the forecast budget gap of about £13.5m unmet. The financial pressures outlined in this letter, including those on pay below, are estimated to create an additional budget gap of a further £12m. This could therefore leave the Brigade facing a budget gap of some £25.5m by 2021/22.

The fire grant in London has been cut repeatedly over the last seven years and further budget cuts inherited from the previous Mayor are in the pipeline over coming years. It is clear that London's grant needs to be increased to ensure that we can maintain and improve the service the Fire Brigade offers Londoners.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Not relevant to request



Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: Rt Hon Gavin Barwell, Chief of Staff, 10 Downing Street
Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister for London