

Subject: Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report

Report to: Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

Report of: Executive Director of the Secretariat

**Date:
5 November 2019**

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background information to the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP) Committee for its meeting with invited guests focussing on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (GTI) Phase 1 Report.¹

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee consider the detail of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report and consider the Committee's next steps.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee notes this report as background to the discussion on Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report and the subsequent discussion.**
- 2.3 **That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the meeting.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Grenfell Tower fire broke out on 14 June 2017 at the 25-storey block of social housing flats in North Kensington. The block originally contained 120 flats over 20 floors, with the ground and first three levels assigned to non-residential properties. Between 2012 and 2016 Grenfell Tower was refurbished. An additional nine flats were added within levels one to three, bringing the total number of residential units to 129. Refurbishment work also included the installation of an external rain screen cladding system and works to the gas supply within the building.² 71 people lost their lives on the night of the fire with a further fatality on 29 January 2018.
- 3.2 The then Prime Minister, Rt Hon Theresa May MP, announced on 15 June 2017 a public inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry is examining the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire. Sir Martin Moore-Bick was appointed as the Chairman of

¹ The Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore-Bick, [Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report](https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-1-report) (<https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-1-report>), 30 October 2019

² London Fire Brigade – Head of GTIRT, Grenfell Tower Fire Preliminary Report, 2 April 2019
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

the inquiry on 28 June 2017 and the inquiry was formally set up on 15 August 2017. The Terms of Reference were set by the then Prime Minister following a public consultation led by the Chairman. The inquiry has published a list of issues on which its investigations will focus, although it has said this may be revised during the course of the investigation.³

3.3 The list of issues that the inquiry is investigating has been separated into two phases. Phase 1 focuses on the factual narrative of the events on the night of 14 June 2017. Hearings for Phase 1 began on 21 May 2018 and concluded on 12 December 2018. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report was published on 30 October 2019.⁴ Phase 2 of the Inquiry is focusing on the remainder of the list of issues and hearings are expected to begin in early 2020, following which the final report will be written and subsequently published.⁵

3.4 The report is divided into six parts and makes 46 recommendations in relation to 12 matters:

- The information made available to fire and rescue services about the materials and methods of construction used in the external walls of high-rise residential buildings;
- The arrangements made by the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to discharge its duties under section 7(2)(d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004;
- The availability of plans of high-rise residential buildings to local fire and rescue services and the provision of premises information boxes in high-rise residential buildings;
- The regular inspection and testing of lifts designed for use by firefighters;
- Communication between the LFB control room and the incident commander;
- The way in which fire and rescue services handle emergency calls;
- The LFB's command and control procedures and use of resources, in particular the capture of information from crews returning from deployments and the sharing of information between the LFB control room, the incident commander and the bridgehead;
- The communication equipment available to the LFB for use by crews deployed in firefighting and rescue operations in high-rise buildings;
- The evacuation of high-rise residential buildings, including the provision of equipment enabling firefighters to send an evacuation signal to the whole or a selected part of the building;
- The provision of fire safety information to residents of high-rise residential buildings and the marking of floor levels in lobbies and staircase landings;
- The inspection of fire doors and self-closing devices;
- Aspects of co-operation between the emergency services.

³ Grenfell Tower Inquiry, [Updated list of issues](https://assets.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/inline-files/List%20of%20Issues%2025%20September%202019.pdf) (<https://assets.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/inline-files/List%20of%20Issues%2025%20September%202019.pdf>), September 2019

⁴ The Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore-Bick, [Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report](https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-1-report) (<https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-1-report>), 30 October 2019.

⁵ Grenfell Tower Inquiry - [About](https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/about) (<https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/about>)

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 This meeting will be used to hear from invited guests on the key considerations arising from the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report.

4.2 Invited guests include:

- Dr Fiona Twycross AM, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience;
- Dany Cotton, QFSM, London Fire Commissioner;
- Andy Bell, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, LFB;
- Roy Wilsher, Chair, National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC);
- Mark Hardingham, Chair of the NFCC Protection and Business Safety Committee and Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director, Fire and Public Safety, Suffolk County Council; and
- A representative from the Fire Brigade's Union.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985		
List of Background Papers: None		
Contact Officer:	Janette Roker	Philippa Goffe
Telephone:	020 7983 6562	020 7084 2929
E-mail:	Janette.Roker@london.gov.uk	Philippa.Goffe@london.gov.uk