



Hina Bokhari AM
Chair of the Fire Committee

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

(Sent by email)

5 November 2024

Dear Sadiq,

I am writing to you on behalf of the London Assembly's Fire Committee (the Committee) following its recent meeting on 10 September 2024 looking into initial responses to the findings and recommendations made in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report.

Subsequent to our meeting, the Committee received a copy of a letter sent to you by the Rt Hon. Angela Rayner, Deputy Prime Minister, requesting that you as London's Mayor develop a local remediation acceleration plan. The letter also requests that you, together with other key partners, take part in 6-weekly roundtables with the Building Safety Minister, Rushanara Ali, to "support and drive forward this critical work."

I am writing to you to highlight the concerns expressed to the Committee by Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) in respect of the London Fire Brigade's (LFB) role in the regulatory framework, the need for the current framework and different regulatory roles to be better aligned and, importantly, for the Government to ensure improvements are properly resourced.

The LFC referenced the need for funding to support a number of improvements.

1. He welcomed the announcement made by the Government shortly before the publication of the Phase 2 report [on 3 September] that they would be introducing personal emergency

evacuation plans (PEEPs) for vulnerable residents of high-rise buildings, as recommended in the Phase 1 report and the funding to support it. He stated:

“There is a very serious intent there, but we need to see it in the detail of funding and how it gets implemented.”¹

He went on to say that the proposal needed to “work in a regulatory context” and that “There has to be clear guidance to those people who manage or build blocks of flats. It has to be aligned across all the regulatory spaces.”²

2. The LFC also raised the recommendation in the Phase 2 report for a College of Fire and Rescue to be implemented by the Government. He stated that “it has to be properly funded, it has to be physically located - whether in one place or a number of centres of excellence because already good training centres exist in other FRSs - and it has to be staffed by genuine experts [of a senior level].”³
3. Referring to the issues of extensive fire safety issues in multiple residential buildings he stated “this is a pivotal moment for society, [it] will require funding at a very serious level to resolve.”⁴
4. The LFC also raised the need for enforcement within the regulatory framework to “have more teeth.” He went on to say “it is going to have to be paid for because that will not come or free.”⁵

The Deputy Mayor for Fire backed the LFC in calling for more resources to be invested in the regulatory system and said this had been raised in the initial roundtable with Angela Rayner held after the Dagenham fire.^{6 7} He told the Committee:

“it is going to come back to money. Training costs money. Equipment costs money. Raising establishment levels cost money.”⁸

The Committee asks that you work closely with the Government as they consider their response to the Phase 2 report and its recommendations for them to ensure funding is forthcoming for fire and rescue services in any changes they propose. In particular, the Committee is keen to ensure LFB is properly resourced to undertake the regulatory work required of it given that the capital contains the vast majority of high-rise buildings in the UK.

In addition, the Committee asks that you take into account the need for LFB to act on the Phase 2 recommendations and support funding requests for this work as part of the budget process.

I would also request that the Fire Committee is copied into your response to the Rt Hon. Angela Rayner on setting out a local remediation acceleration plan for London so we can consider and monitor how this would impact LFB.

¹ Fire Committee meeting draft transcript Panel 2, 10 September 2024, p10

² Fire Committee meeting draft transcript Panel 2, 10 September 2024, p10

³ Fire Committee meeting draft transcript Panel 2, 10 September 2024, p24

⁴ Fire Committee meeting draft transcript Panel 2, 10 September 2024, p33

⁵ Fire Committee meeting draft transcript Panel 2, 10 September 2024, p32

⁶ BBC News, [London tower inferno](#), 26 August 2024

⁷ Gov.uk, [DPM Fixing unsafe buildings must be faster](#), 29 August 2024

⁸ Fire Committee meeting draft transcript Panel 2, 10 September 2024, p32

I would be grateful if you could please respond to the Committee by 3 December 2024. Your response should be copied to Philippa Goffe, the Committee's Senior Policy Adviser (philippa.goffe@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hina Bokhari". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

Hina Bokhari AM
Chair of the Fire Committee