

MAYOR OF LONDON

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

Date: 13 June 2025

Dear Sir Keir,

It has been eight years since the horrific and senseless loss of 72 lives in the Grenfell Tower fire. Those who lost loved ones that night have been living with the tragedy ever since, every day of which they have shown unrelenting strength, dignity and courage. As we turn to delivering the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, and to the future of the site, we must remember their world will never be same.

On every anniversary of the fire, I write to the Prime Minister to mark the occasion and set out what more needs to be done to support the community and ensure that everyone can live in a safe home – a right denied to the residents of Grenfell. This is the first time that I have written to you as Prime Minister. While there is still much work to do, I have been heartened that your Government has grasped the importance of responding fully to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry Phase 2 recommendations.

Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2

The Grenfell inquiry report was damning, and made clear what we all knew: that all deaths that occurred were avoidable. It is incumbent on us to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again.

The report exposed key truths about the UK's testing and certification regime. The Green Paper on construction product reform is welcome, and I hope its implementation will better protect the public and give them faith in the system that has so badly failed them in the past. The inquiry also recommended bringing testing and certification back under Government control, a policy which I have long supported. I would encourage you to further consider this proposal, and I would be happy to work with your Government on how this could best be done. I welcome the review of statutory guidance on building safety regulations, particularly Approved Document B. It is clear, as it has been for some time, that the UK's Building Regulations are not fit for purpose and must be reconsidered. Within my powers, I have made sure that developments on GLA land under the London Development Panel, and using London's Affordable Homes Programme, follow enhanced building safety standards including a complete ban on combustibles in external walls of buildings. I would encourage you to consider how this could apply to England more widely, to move the market away from these products.

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Cladding remediation

I support your Government's ambition to accelerate the pace of remediation and support residents as set out in the government's Remediation Acceleration Plan. I commend the creation of the Joint Remediation Partnership Board, a coalition led jointly by the Building Safety Minister and the Deputy Mayor, Housing and Residential Development, working in partnership London Councils, London Fire Brigade and national partners. As part of the partnership GLA will work with MHCLG to produce a pan-London plan to support the government's national Remediation Acceleration Plan focusing on the unique obstacles London faces and setting out how collectively we will tackle these with pace.

Debarment and prosecutions

Those responsible for the Grenfell fire must be swiftly held to account. I fully support your efforts to ban the companies involved from obtaining public contracts, and I have asked the GLA to consider how we can use powers under the Procurement Act 2023 to bar these companies from City Hall funding.

Operation Northleigh, the Metropolitan Police Investigation into the fire, requires continued support so that it can provide justice for those we have lost, the bereaved and survivors. For an operation of this scale to be effective and independent of the day-to-day funding of the Metropolitan Police, it requires a separate funding settlement. It is crucial that the police and Crown Prosecution Service have all the resources needed to bring prosecutions quickly.

Healthcare and wellbeing

You will be acutely aware of the terrible ongoing physical and mental health and wellbeing impacts of the fire among those most affected. It is vital that the bereaved, survivors and those affected by the fire have adequate and long-term healthcare provision and screening. With plans now in place to dismantle the tower, it is critical that proper mental health and wellbeing support is in place for the community during and after the process.

Accountability and oversight

Following state disasters, it is important to have a legal duty of candour to ensure that the right organisations and individuals are held accountable. Introducing the Hillsborough Law will help to deliver this, and I look forward to its timely implementation. In addition, I strongly encourage you to introduce a National Oversight Mechanism, as championed by the independent charity INQUEST. An arms-length public body to monitor, collate and follow up on recommendations from inquiries and inquests will help us to put in place much-needed measures to save lives in the future.

London Fire Brigade

I am pleased that the LFB has successfully implemented all relevant Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations, and that I was able to make available additional funding from City Hall for this. I welcome your commitment to the implementation of Phase 2 recommendations, and LFB must be supported to deliver their share of recommendations. With 70% of UK high-rise buildings being in the capital, and so much to do to remediate them, we need to ensure that national funding formulas reflect this risk profile. It is unsustainable for substantial funding to come from City Hall to the detriment of other priorities, so I want to work with your

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Government to ensure that LFB receives a fair and long-term settlement enabling it to continue to keep Londoners safe, and to support the implementation of the Inquiry's findings.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)

It is vital that disabled residents have a plan of what to do in an emergency. Your Government's commitment to introduce Residential PEEPs is a welcome step forward, and I hope that future legislation and guidance will go further to apply the measures to all buildings covered by the Fire Safety Order, as I have previously called for.

Resilience

Following the Grenfell Phase 2 recommendations, I am pleased that the London Resilience Forum approved an updated partnership strategy in February 2025. The strategy ensures people, including survivors and the bereaved, are at the heart of London's resilience arrangements. The strategy also seeks to tackle the disparities in risk among Londoners, build partnership working, and incorporate prevention and systems thinking into our new approach. The GLA is also building resilience into London's social and affordable housing stock through more effective collaboration with registered providers. Despite not being Category 1 or 2 organisations under the Civil Contingencies Act, 20 per cent of Londoners live in homes which are the responsibility of Private Registered Providers – I am working to make sure that these providers not only have effective response plans themselves, but are also connected to wider resilience structures.

In recognition of the importance of the community response to Grenfell, which demonstrated the capacity and ability of our communities and the voluntary sector to provide specific, localised and culturally appropriate support, I established the London Communities Emergencies Partnership (LCEP) in 2021. MHCLG funds have been critical to this, and I hope to explore multi-year funding models to ensure these crucial structures can continue their work on a sustainable footing.

Social housing

I am heartened to see the Regulator of Social Housing's proactive enforcement of the new standards on safety, transparency and accountability, and I hope it represents a step-change in the prioritisation of fire issues and residents' concerns. I have long supported the introduction of the Regulator's new investigative powers, and it is clear that as a result they are now able to identify outstanding fire safety actions, and work with landlords to make these homes safe. The Regulator should remain empowered to make the full use of its new powers, including improvement plans, where necessary.

However, the rules around remediation funds mean that social housing landlords currently struggle to access them for the remediation of social rented homes. This has undermined social landlords' ability to remediate their housing stock and means that they are less able to invest in the supply of new social and affordable homes. Reviewing these rules, following on from the announcement made at the Spending Review, would support critical remediation works, and your and the Deputy Prime Minister's ambition to deliver the biggest wave of social and affordable housebuilding in a generation.

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Skills

Both the Grenfell Inquiry and Hackitt Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety found a lack of training and skills across the housing industry. The new training opportunities and

investment that this Government has made to date in construction skills will no doubt help to plug this gap, but there is still more to do to ensure that we can deliver new, safe housing and remediate homes at pace.

We also need a national strategy for sustainable investment in fire safety expertise, as the demand for fire engineering (and wider fire safety roles) continues to grow across sectors.

Memorial

As you are aware, the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission and its bereaved, survivor and community members, have shortlisted five potential designers for the Grenfell memorial. The next stages of the process to choose a fitting national memorial should, as previously promised, remain community led. I am pleased that your Government has pledged to honour all previous commitments, including the last Government's promise to provide the necessary funding and maintenance of the memorial in perpetuity.

As Mayor, I will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the bereaved, survivors and Grenfell community in their tireless fight for justice and change. As we mark the eighth anniversary of the Grenfell fire, my thoughts remain with those most affected, especially those who lost loved ones.

Eight years ago, I vowed that I would do everything in my power to make sure a fire like Grenfell never happened again. I am under no illusions about the scale of this task; while we have seen some progress in this time, it is our collective duty to do more. The safety of the public must be our priority – always.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on the change that is needed and to ensure the public are safe in their homes.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London