



Home Office

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

26 June 2018

Dear Yvette

## **GRENFELL IMMIGRATION POLICY – RELATIVES**

I am writing to notify you of an update to the Grenfell relatives' immigration policy.

Following the fire, we recognised that those affected would have relatives overseas, and we acted swiftly to facilitate entry to those who wanted to come to the UK urgently to be with family in the wake of the devastating fire. Where individuals did not qualify under existing Immigration Rules, we used discretion to grant visas outside those Rules in exceptional circumstances. Our priority was to ensure that survivors' and victims' families received the support of their loved ones and that bereaved families could arrange funerals for those who tragically lost their lives.

On 11 October 2017, we announced a dedicated Grenfell relatives' policy to allow those granted short periods of leave outside of the Immigration Rules, to remain here for up to six months.

Our priority now, is to support the work of the Public Inquiry. To that end, I have announced an extension to the relatives' policy, for those who are designated as Core Participants to the Inquiry or are required to give oral evidence. The policy will allow those family members who are already in the UK and who are called as a witness, or have Core Participant status in the Public Inquiry, to remain in the UK for up to a further six months. Eligible individuals will be able to extend their leave free of charge under the specific published Grenfell relatives' policy.

I hope those affected will welcome this change, which will provide them with the certainty of further leave to remain for the anticipated duration of the Inquiry oral evidence sessions.

I would like to reassure you that we have already admitted a significant number of people, many outside the normal Immigration Rules. We will continue to ensure that all applications for leave to enter or remain are decided quickly by our dedicated team on a case by case basis, taking into account of the compelling and compassionate circumstances.

Relatives in the UK, whose leave is about to expire, who think they may be eligible to extend their stay under the dedicated Grenfell relatives' policy can telephone our helpline on 0300 303 2832.

They can also make an appointment to speak to our team at the Curve Community Centre, 10 Bard Road, where they will have the opportunity to provide relevant details. The number to call to make an appointment is 0208 196 4531. I will also be recommending that individuals seek independent legal advice in relation to their immigration matters.

The Government is determined that we will do all we can to support the Inquiry. Relatives overseas who are called to attend, or who have Core Participant status can enter the UK as a visitor. Where Core Participant status is raised in an application, we are committed that applications will be decided in a timely way by our dedicated team to ensure relatives are able to attend the Inquiry.

I will publish revised guidance with further details on the Grenfell Tower relatives' policy reflecting this announcement in due course.

I would welcome your support for this announcement and I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

**Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**