



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

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To all MPs in England

26 March 2020

Dear colleague

In July 2017 the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government appointed the Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce to provide assurance that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) has the capacity and capability to deliver an effective long-term recovery plan for its residents. The Taskforce has been a key part of the Government's continuing commitment to support those affected by the Grenfell tragedy.

I recently received the Taskforce's Fifth Report and I am writing to you today to provide an update on progress and next steps. I am also depositing a copy of the report in the Library of the House and publishing it in full on gov.uk.

The report notes that the council continues to make progress. Since the Taskforce's fourth report, the council has produced an ambitious new housing strategy, with 95% of households from Grenfell Tower and Walk permanently rehoused, and the appropriate support put in place for those who have not yet moved into a permanent home. The council has increased their focus on the economic development and skills agenda, strengthened the senior leadership team, and provided bespoke support for the bereaved and survivors.

I am now confident that the foundations are in place for RBKC to continue on its own improvement journey, throughout Phase 2 of the Inquiry and beyond, without intensive support from the Taskforce. Therefore, I have asked the Taskforce to step down from their duties as of today.

You will see that the Taskforce's report is clear, however, that some challenges remain and RBKC has significant work still to do in relation to culture change and improving relationships with the wider community. I expect RBKC's improvement plans to have a particular focus on these issues going forward and I want to reassure you that I will not hesitate to take further action should there be insufficient progress.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce - Aftab Chughtai, Javed Khan, Baroness Jane Scott of Bybrook and Chris Wood - for their work with RBKC and the North Kensington community over the past two and a half years. The challenge and support they have provided has been a vital component in starting the council's transformation.

I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Rt Hon Nick Hurd as an Independent Adviser to the Prime Minister on Grenfell. I believe this will help to ensure that the Government has continuing oversight of RBKC's improvement journey. This will be in addition to the continuation of the Grenfell Ministerial Recovery Group. These oversight arrangements will ensure I am kept abreast of the progress of Grenfell recovery and allow Government to meet its continued commitment to supporting the recovery of those affected.

We are continuing to progress work at pace across Government to ensure that a tragedy like the Grenfell Tower fire can never happen again. The Fire Safety Bill introduced on 19 March will require building owners and managers of multi-occupied residential premises of any height to fully consider and mitigate the risks of any external wall systems including cladding, and fire doors. I will also be writing to you separately in the near future to provide you with an update on my Department's ongoing work on building safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP