

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

Date: 9 June 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, I am deeply concerned at the lack of wholesale systemic and cultural change that has been accomplished to date. I am fearful that many of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's vital recommendations may go unimplemented.

Half a decade on from the devastating loss of 72 people, we should be operating in a different world – where fire safety is prioritised and embedded, rules and regulations are ambitious and rigorous, guidance is clear and comprehensive, and industry is responsible and highly-skilled.

Not only are we a long way away from that world but, following the decision on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) and other broken promises, the direction of travel appears to be moving backwards. I am deeply concerned that the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry may follow those from the Lakanal House tragedy and become just another missed opportunity for change.

On that night at Grenfell Tower, 41 per cent of disabled residents died. None of them had been given a plan for an emergency. The Inquiry in its Phase 1 report recognised this serious omission and made a life-saving recommendation for PEEPs to be required in law. I am alarmed by government's recent refusal to implement this recommendation.

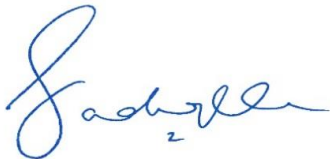
This decision begs the question: what is the point of inquests and inquiries if they are simply going to be ignored? The independent charity INQUEST has long been calling for the establishment of a National Oversight Mechanism, an arms-length public body with a duty to collate, analyse and monitor recommendations and their implementation arising from post death investigations. As I have before, I urge you to act on this suggestion.

The Grenfell bereaved, survivors and residents deserve truth and change. The Inquiry is uncovering the truth of what happened but only those in power can drive and deliver long-lasting change. The London Fire Brigade has worked to implement 26 of the 29 recommendations the Inquiry set for it in Phase 1, with work ongoing to implement the final three. Now we need government to show the same commitment.

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The bereaved, survivors and residents have spent five long years on their fight for truth, justice, accountability, and change, all while grieving their loss and trying to rebuild their lives. I pay tribute to them and stand in solidarity with them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London