

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Sir Martin Moore-Bick**

Chairman of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry

**Date:** 29 July 2020

By email:

[contact@grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk)

Dear Sir Martin,

I am writing to you following the submissions made on the 7 July by Professor Leslie Thomas QC on the role race and discrimination may have played in relation to the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, and the Inquiry's duty to investigate these issues during Phase 2 with an appropriately diverse panel.

This Inquiry is a unique opportunity to bring about meaningful change to the way residents are treated and to ensure that they are safe in their homes. I believe that the Inquiry's Terms of Reference do not cover some key concerns, including wider questions of social housing and the treatment of tenants. Given the disproportionate prevalence of certain protected characteristics amongst London's social tenants, such consideration should always have extended to an examination of whether racism and discrimination more generally were factors in this tragedy. As you consider Professor Thomas's arguments, and the Inquiry's duties under the Equality Act 2010, I would ask you to consider whether Phase 2 of the Inquiry can truly be said to provide a full understanding of the factors behind the Grenfell Tower fire without explicitly addressing these matters.

To assist with your consideration, I would urge you to hold a procedural hearing to allow all core participants to make submissions on the issues of race and discrimination if they wish to do so.

I remain disappointed, as do the Bereaved, Next of Kin, Survivors and Residents and other Core Participants, that a diverse and representative panel is still not in place to support you in your role as Chair. I wrote to the Government earlier this year requesting an urgent update on the proposals and time frame for the appointment of the additional panel member. I did not receive a response. An appropriately diverse panel is essential for the Inquiry to have the full trust of the Grenfell community and to ensure that the Inquiry can comply with its legal duties including those under the Equality Act 2010, and I have again written to the Prime Minister to register my concerns.

Putting aside the delays around the additional panel member, there are steps the Inquiry can take now to ensure race and discrimination are given appropriate focus. I was pleased to see the Inquiry asking questions about means of escape from the Tower for disabled residents during Module 1 hearings. I would support the Inquiry to continue this approach. In addition, concerns have been raised that the Inquiry does not have an

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assessor with experience of social housing, inequality and the role of tenant voice and participation. I urge you to appoint as soon as possible an assessor with such relevant expertise.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my calls for effective and meaningful participation and for the Bereaved, Next of Kin, Survivors and Residents to remain at the heart of this Inquiry. While limits on attendance at the Inquiry are a necessity in the current exceptional circumstances, the Inquiry must ensure that all the bereaved, survivors and residents who wish to can have easy remote access to the Inquiry.

I urge you to use the Inquiry's recess in August to reflect on the issues of race and discrimination at Grenfell Tower and to hold a procedural hearing inviting core participants to voice their views.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London