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**From:** Office of Melanie Dawes  
**Sent:** 16 June 2017 20:26  
**To:** Sedwill Mark - National Security Secretariat (Cabinet Office)  
**Cc:** Office of Sajid Javid; Office of Alok Sharma; 'LGratton@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk'; 'AWhitehead@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk'; 'GBarwell@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Jeremy Heywood'; Helen MacNamara; Office of Jo Farrar; Lise-Anne Boissiere; Katherine Richardson; Hammond, Katharine - [Flex-C]; Office of Melanie Dawes  
**Subject:** Grenfell Tower

Mark,

I know the PM has been very concerned about Kensington and Chelsea's capacity today.

As I said in the margins of COBR, John Barradell took over at lunch time as gold command for the whole recovery and he has just rung me with an update. He has clearly made very significant progress this afternoon and I think we can now be assured that the situation is coming under proper control.

The key points:

- He has taken over the entire recovery operation. Parallel teams to the K&C ones are now in place on all fronts, including housing. They finally have shift patterns in place.
- Professionals from the Red Cross have come in to manage the voluntary effort.
- This afternoon's protests meant that K&C town hall had to be evacuated – they have moved to Westminster and this will now be the centre of command.
- John has brought in heavyweight leadership alongside him - 3 serving chief executives are acting as his deputies (Southwark, Hounslow and Bromley).
- There is significant capability from other boroughs within the teams, and this is growing. This includes proper housing management people.
- K&C are still leading on a few elements – finance/legal/insurance, staff welfare and HR, and community engagement with members.
- They are moving the humanitarian crisis centre and turning it into something much more professional-looking rather than the “pillow and blanket” approach of the sports centre. Housing officers have been at the centre this evening (for the first time) working with those still remaining there.
- But in essence this is now a pan-London effort – with all the depth of capability that implies.

On K&C itself, John is clear that they are in a bad way. At official level the gold structure manages this risk for the time being – it has basically taken over. At political level other London Councils are coming in with support. After the immediate crisis is over we will clearly need to consider a long term solution.

We have embedded RED response and housing liaison into the local effort this afternoon – as well as helping on the ground this will also ensure we start to get the information we need on rehousing etc. We are also proving finance liaison from Monday, at John's request. I have made sure that they know that finance is not an issue and I am confident that Nick Holgate understands this as well as John.

I will keep in touch with John. He should now be your go-to person for COBR meetings etc. You may find that Nick is on the line too, because of the sensitivities – but you should ask John all the questions.

I'll see you at COBR tomorrow at 11am – let me now if you'd like a conversation beforehand. I'll be on tomorrow and Helen MacNamara will be in my place on Sunday.

Melanie

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