

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

24 November 2017

LETTER TO ALL CORE PARTICIPANTS

Dear Sirs

RE: PROCEDURAL HEARING 11-12 DECEMBER 2017

We write with reference to the procedural hearing listed for 11-12 December 2017.

As you are aware the hearing is to take place at Holborn Bars, and the Inquiry has to give consideration to and plan for the seating and the general configuration of the hearing room in order to accommodate as many attendees as possible. The priority is to ensure that there is as much seating as possible for core participant former residents, bereaved families and affected local residents ("the CP residents"). The Hearing venue also has a second room ("overflow room") where the proceedings will be streamed live and which is located on the same floor a short distance from the hearing room. The overflow room has 120 seats that will be allocated to the CP residents, non-resident core participants, the press/media, other interested parties and members of the public. To allow greater flexibility for a wider audience, in particular those not able to travel on the day and/or with caring or other responsibilities, the Inquiry will also be streaming the proceedings live on its website and at Notting Hill Methodist Church.

We very much hope and fully anticipate that you will work with us to enable us to accommodate as many legal representatives and CP residents in the hearing room as possible. We have thought long and hard about how we can achieve this and also strike a fair balance between legal representatives and that required to enable a reasonable number of CP residents to attend and be present in the hearing room. The Inquiry would like to propose that there be no more than two legal representatives from each legal team present in the main hearing room during the proceedings. This may consist of one leading counsel and one junior counsel, or one counsel and one solicitor, or any other combination you deem appropriate. If more than two legal representatives from your legal teams wish to attend on one or both days, they may be accommodated in the overflow room, subject of course to available seating. Seating will be allocated on a priority basis to CP residents who cannot be accommodated in the hearing room.

The Inquiry therefore requests that it be provided with the names of your two legal representatives who will be attending the procedural hearing as soon as possible and at the latest by Tuesday 5 December.

In terms of the attendance of CP residents (who will have reserved seating in the hearing room and the overflow room) we would request that each of the firms acting for the CP residents

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provide us with the total number of their clients who wish to attend the hearing, together with their full names. We hope when providing us with a list you will bear in mind the availability of space we have set out in this email. Once we have this information we can then make an informed decision on the provision of seating, which, as I am sure you will understand, will have to be allocated to the persons whose names have been provided to us in advance. We would be grateful if you could provide us with this information by cop Tuesday 5 December.

Please let us know if there are any special arrangements you wish us to provide in the hearing room, such as for wheelchair-bound residents. The hearing room will not be able to accommodate pushchairs, nor does the venue have any crèche or baby-sitting facilities. We suggest that those residents who have caring responsibilities may prefer either to watch the proceedings online or at Notting Hill Methodist Church.

Since this is a public Inquiry, the Chairman is provisionally of the view that the names of core participants should be published on the Inquiry website. Before that is done, however, he would like to hear from any of those representing core participants who wish to make submissions, either generally or in relation to particular persons. If you wish to make any submissions about publication, therefore, please be ready to make them at the hearing on 11-12 December and provide a brief summary of them in writing by 4.00 pm on Monday 4 December 2017.

Yours faithfully

**Shafi Nasser
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