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Regards

Inquiry Team

On 3 August 2017 at 00:05, Grenfell Tower Leaseholder's Association
<GrenfellLeaseholdersAssociation@hotmail.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Grenfell Tower Inquiry Team,

GOD is Good and Devil is Evil", all we did was add one more letter, i.e. O to God it became good and D to evil and it became Devil, how easy was that? It never occurred to us that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and their Managing Agent KCTMO private limited company approved £10m investment had evil intention to install non-fire resistant material (i.e. flammable cladding) around the building to add ferocious fuel to the fire on 14th June 2017, to create such an unprecedented tragic incident for a Residential fire. The BBC describes it as, **"Drive over London Westway and Grenfell Tower demands your attention. It is a black nail that has been hammered into the nation's conscience."** The Rt. Honourable Prime Minister has called the incident a national tragedy and a state failure.

Grenfell Tower was our resident and beloved sweet home for 25 years and for some residents this was the case for even longer. But now it is nothing more to us than **"looking into an open coffin"**.

To put the record straight, the catastrophic power surges from May 2013 and all serious issues and concerns were raised by the Grenfell Tower Leaseholders' Association for many years to the Local Councillors and the Scrutiny committee of RBKC and KCTMO and wider recipients and audiences. This information is all in the public domain for public interest and they are all documented.

And it was not just cladding and power surges which was the problem. There was also a problem with the way the gas pipes were installed, the fact they removed the fire breaks in underfloor piping and did not install firebreaks in the cladding when they did the refurbishment, the fact that the fire alarms and firefighting equipment did not work effectively, the fact the smoke vents were not effective and the list goes on. One just has to visit the enormous level of correspondence to KCTMO and within the last few months a petition was signed by 90% of the residents on the need for the council to deal with inadequacies in the building. This is all in the public domain or at least RBKC and KCTMO's archive file. This is truly an international embarrassment.

It is likely a power surge caused the fridge to catch fire, and information on the cause and immediate spread of the fire should absolutely be shared in the interim report. This includes the fire brigade's immediate response (i.e. by what time did they get to the site of the fire, when did they deal with the fire

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internally, when did they realise the fire had spread externally and at what time they were addressing the fire externally). This should also include findings on why a Hotpoint fridge freezer which was not fire safe, was allowed to be sold on the market.

The interim report should also address the question the evacuation procedure followed, given it was apparent very early on that containment principles did not apply. In a recent fire at Trellick Tower, residents chose to ignore the evacuation advice of "Stay Put" and it is harrowing thought but if residents had chosen to run for their lives, many of the reported 80 casualties may have survived. It was the cladding being flammable and without effective fire breaks that allowed the fire to spread to other parts of the building and lack of effective equipment and evacuation procedures that meant so many people were burned alive in the fire.

The terms of the Grenfell Tower Regeneration Project with regards to fire safety also needs to be reviewed in the interim report. One area that needs to be looked at is why the plastic that was used in the Academy next to Grenfell, was entirely different to that fitted to the block as the school did not catch fire with the debris falling from the building.

Part of RBKC and KCTMO Grenfell Tower regeneration project was window replacement, which had as an important role to play arguably as the cladding. Cheap plastic frames were installed that were not fire resistant and they were all burning like wood on the night of the fire. There are seven windows in one flat alone, which means $129 \times 7 = 903$ flammable plastic window frame in a 24 storey building. This seems like a fire safety hazard waiting to happen. Please find attached pictures of the stairwell where recent gas pipes were installed throughout the stairwell. Does this picture suggest to anyone that RBKC and their managing agent invested £10m in this building?

We all must learn from the history, that's how human beings evolve from cave men to the 21st century. Everybody in this on the Grenfell Towering inferno, from the experts to politician is eager to learn from this tragic incident at unprecedented level. Again for us if we don't learn from our mistakes, history will repeat anyway. We MUST demand that there MUST be a price tag for gross negligence if found guilty. The corporation is an entity, when someone has an accident we do not blame the car but the driver, we must punish the individuals.

My wife, [REDACTED] was the victim of the fire at 30th April 2010 fire at Grenfell Tower and has already been through painful experiences. You cannot put any amount of money to quantify the impact of these events on a person's life. We have come out alive from near death experiences and we are the luckiest people in the world, but every day, every cell in our bodies will have to suffer the pain and suffering through every breathing moment.

Our experience with evidence is that RBKC/KCTMO always wanted to shoot the messenger and used bullying tactics and put us on unnecessary and undue stress. But this time things are different for them because the world is watching them.

This is to confirm that we would like to be core participants of the public inquiry and we will press ahead with the personal injury claim with absolute determination and we strongly believe that what happened to the residents of Grenfell Tower on 14th June 2017 will remain fresh every day in our minds for the rest of our life.

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We are permanently traumatised and just managed to come out alive from a near death experience on that night from 18th floor when apart from one family on our floor perished in this manmade real life Towering inferno. No words can provide comfort when we lost so many of our neighbours and close friends whom we know for over a quarter of a century and our home. Nothing can take away from the fact it was a manmade disaster that could and should have been avoided.

On that night we have gone through a very difficult and unpleasant experiences created extreme mental and emotional problem will remain within us for the rest of our life. We are permanently traumatised for the rest of our life.

My wife and I as Leaseholders had everything, and fought for our living standards, but within an hour the manmade real life "Grenfell Towering Inferno" wiped away all that we knew, including our precious valuables and thousands of memories. [REDACTED] again, we had everything we wanted in life and worked tremendously hard for it, but now all in vain.

We have lost our home, paid mortgage, service charges and major work bills and within an hour we lost everything. At the moment, we are picking up the pieces of our broken lives and it is beyond imagination what we are having to go through. [REDACTED] which is doing little to reduce our trauma is now our theme of our lives. We are struggling to continue with our lives with the little that is remaining. To rebuild our lives is not easy by any stretch of the imagination.

In conclusion, the interim report must address the points raised in this mail. The interim report needs to identify the main stakeholders (directly and indirectly) who should be held accountable. There should also be findings which summarise gaps in the methods used to deal with the fire on the night. **No stone must be left unturned, but answers that can obtained immediately should be communicated in the interim report without fail and not withheld for the full report.**

Regards,

Shah Ahmed

The Chairman

Grenfell Tower Leaseholders' Association

156 Grenfell Towering inferno(former Grenfell Tower)