

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

PHASE 2 WITNESS STATEMENT OF HANAN WAHABI

EXHIBIT HW/4



Residents' update

Following concerns raised by residents at the last meeting of our Grenfell Tower residents group we have approached the TMO and asked for the following to be addressed

We want the TMO/Rydon to continue dialogue with residents who feel they were pressured to have the HIU unit placed in their entrance hallways and would now like the boiler relocated to their kitchen. If this concerns you we recommend you contact Cllr Judith Blakeman, by visiting her surgery at the new Leisure Centre between 10.00am and 12.00pm on Saturday 22nd August, or by email: cjlr.blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk.

Furthermore, we have asked our local Labour Councillors to write to Grenfell Tower residents to show they are supporting us with these and other related issues.

We are also waiting for TMO/Rydon to confirm they will facilitate regular meetings with a Grenfell Tower resident group, so that the improvement works are done with us rather than to us in the future. We have invited Mr Maddison from the



TMO and Cllr Judith Blakeman to attend one of our resident meetings in September, and we are currently awaiting confirmation of a date.

On 3rd August, TMO recently circulated an "Approval form for Heat Interface Unit installation in kitchen at Grenfell Tower" to a number of residents in Grenfell Tower. We have raised concerns about the wording of paragraph 7 as it allowed TMO /Rydon to "accept no liability for any damage caused during the installation of the new central heating system". We find this language unacceptable and have asked TMO to reconsider. We urge residents not to return this form to the TMO until this issue has been resolved to our satisfaction.

We have requested that the

Meetings

- 19 Aug** Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower
- 22 Aug** Local Councillors Surgery, 10am to 12pm in the Leisure Centre opposite Lancaster West
- 2 Sept** Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower
- 9 Sept** Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower

TMO/Rydon make more effort to keep our communal areas clean.

We have also requested that the TMO/Rydon publish the independent investigation carried out to assess the safety and risks associated with the HIU location in the hallway, particularly it's close proximity to electrics and a fuse box.

The next Grenfell Tower residents' meeting is Wednesday 19th August. Please come if you are interested in discussing the setting up a 'formal' Grenfell Tower residents' group, or if you have further issues to raise with the TMO/Rydon.

A Grenfell Tower newsletter for residents by residents



Residents' update

There is a lot happening this month. What with setting up a 'Compact' Residents' Association for Grenfell Tower, a meeting with Peter Maddison of TMO, and the chance for all residents to be heard and make requests of TMO & Rydon.



Meetings

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| 2 Sept | Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower |
| 9 Sept | Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower |
| 16 Sept | Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm venue to be confirmed |
| 23 Sept | Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower |

As a result of fighting the TMO and Rydon to honour the promises they made to residents about the location of the heating unit in our homes, and involving our local Councillors and MP, the TMO have to recognise and consult with a Grenfell Tower residents' group. This means we have a community voice with TMO for the first time in some time.

We are painfully aware there are many issues to raise with the TMO, in terms of how they treat people, and the service and care they provide. But there is an opportunity to begin to talk to them about these things, and our local Councillors are also willing to support individuals and us as a group to do so.

During September there is opportunity to discuss why you would want a residents group, what you would want it to do, and to put yourself forward as a representative

to take part if you would like to. We are going to start that process this Wednesday evening 2nd September, at 6.45pm in the Community Rooms opposite the base of the tower. Please come to this or future meetings if you have an interest in what is happening.

On 9th September Peter Maddison, the TMO Director responsible for the construction works, is going to attend a meeting with residents in the Community Rooms. He is coming to respond to a number of questions residents have already posed. And there are sure to be more questions and concerns residents have about the ongoing works. We will be preparing the questions we want to ask him at our meeting on the 2nd September.

We have invited both the TMO and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea community engagement teams to come and talk to us about the support they can provide to a Grenfell Tower residents group. We are waiting to hear if they can join us on the evening of the 16th September.

In the meantime, you will have noticed our local Councillors sent a letter to everyone in the tower. If you are having any problems with Rydon or TMO, or the works in your home, please use them to represent you. They have already supported a number of residents to get what they wanted from TMO & Rydon.

A Grenfell Tower newsletter for residents by residents



Residents' update

Grenfell Tower residents will be meeting at 6.45pm on Wednesday 23rd September to set up a residents association.

The meeting will be held in the Lancaster West Community Rooms, opposite the base of the tower.



We will be meeting with representatives from the TMO's, and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Council's, Resident Engagement Teams in order to formalise and recognise the group.

It is our intention that the group works to meet the concerns and needs of Grenfell Tower leaseholders, tenants, renters, etc.

Anyone who lives in Grenfell Tower can be a member of the group. There is no cost.

At this time we are looking to nominate a handful of Lead Representatives, who will help

represent the interests of the people living in Grenfell Tower in its dealings with TMO, etc. This may not be a job for the faint hearted!

If you would like to put your name forward you can do so at the meeting on the 23rd September, or simply by filling in the form below and dropping it through the letterbox of either Flat 185 or 134.

Last week we met with TMO, and Peter Maddison updated us on plans to put the HIU in the kitchen / hall cupboard for around 40 flats. There

remain many other issues with TMO. If you have problems, at the moment we recommend the quickest way to get them resolved is to contact Councillor Blakeman at:

Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk.

In future we intend to communicate via the web, as well as by printed newsletters, text, and regular monthly meetings. A member of our group has created a website for us, and you can see it at:

<https://grenfelltowerra.wordpress.com>.

Meetings

23 Sept Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower

7 Oct Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower

tbc Meeting with Lady Victoria Borwick MP

I would like to put my name forward to be a lead representative of the Grenfell Tower residents group

Name:

Flat Number:

Email:

Telephone:

A Grenfell Tower newsletter for residents by residents



Residents' update

We now have an official Grenfell Tower Residents Association, recognised by the TMO and RBKC.

We are now working to have the TMO respond and engage more effectively to the on-going concerns of residents.

The Grenfell Tower Residents Association (GT RA) was set up during a meeting on the 23rd September 2015, with a number of Lead Representatives elected.

The following Saturday a number of GT RA members met with our local Councillor Atkinson, at his bi-weekly surgery. They raised a number of issues with him at that time.

This coming Wednesday there is a meeting with the TMO and Rydon to discuss the issues raised with Councillors over the last couple of months. These issues include:

1. Reinstatement of original floor numbers
2. Moving 'boilers' already installed in hallways into kitchens or cupboards if residents wish
3. An Independent Safety Investigation of the 'boilers'



above fuse boxes in hallways

4. Request to re-instate concierge once the building is complete
5. Working security cameras in reception and lifts
6. Clarity on the timeline for works
7. Use of lifts by workmen during the day
8. Outcome of complaint & investigation in to GT resident left without toilet, cold water and bathroom
9. Compensation and making good for things such as lost curtains, and damage to fixtures and fittings in our homes.

If you would like to join us, please come on Wednesday 7th October at

Meetings

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|---------------|--|
| 7 Oct | Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower |
| tbc | Meeting with Lady Victoria Borwick MP, TMO, Rydon and RBKC resident engagement team |
| 28 Oct | Grenfell Tower Residents meeting, 6.45pm in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower |

6.45pm, in the Community Rooms at the base of the tower.

In other news, a member of the GT RA was talking to the Leader of the RBKC Council (Councillor Paget-Brown) at the recent TMO Residents AGM. This public discussion focused on the lack of community engagement from TMO / Rydon towards Grenfell Tower residents.

In response, Cllr Paget-Brown offered to come visit residents to understand how we can get better engagement with TMO. We will update you when this meeting is going happen.

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