

**IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY**

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**PHASE 2 WITNESS STATEMENT OF RABIA YAHYA**

**EXHIBIT RY/3**

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The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
The Town Hall, Hornton Street, Kensington, London, W8 7NX

Town Clerk  
Mr Nicholas Holgate

Director of Housing  
Ms Laura Johnson



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

Ms Rabia Yahya  
152 Grenfell Tower  
Lancaster West Estate  
London  
W11 1TQ

Date: 24 April 2017  
Your Reference: 1237555

Dear Ms Yahya

**Re: Your housing situation**

As discussed, I enclose a Health & Disability (H&D) Assessment form for your son.

This form is the first stage of the Health Assessment process. This is an assessment to allow us to consider whether your son is eligible for 'medical priority' (see: below about the criteria). It also allows us to assess the level of accessibility your household requires, for example, whether your son has a problem with stairs.

Please read the front of the form before completing it; it gives information about the criteria for 'medical priority' and the evidence we need you to provide. Once completed, please return it to me in the self-addressed/pre-paid envelope together with:

1. A copy of your son's electronic GP Patient record/Patient summary covering the last 12 months;
2. Up to date medical letters or reports (no more than 12 months old) from any specialists or consultants involved in your son's care; including physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The letters must contain information about your diagnosed health issues and prognosis.

They should also advise how the health issues are being affected by the current housing, if applicable. In particular, we need to know if your son is having difficulties with accessing the home (i.e. problems with leaving your home due to the stairs) or accessing the bathroom, toilet or kitchen. Also, it would help if the letters/reports provide information as to what level of accessibility would suit him, in view of his health.

Please note that there is a high threshold of need for 'Supporting Health & Independence priority' ('medical priority') and applicants are only eligible where it can be demonstrated that:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email: [housingopportunities@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:housingopportunities@rbkc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk)

1. A member of the eligible household has severe and long-term health problems and,
2. This person's health, independence or access to essential facilities is significantly compromised by their existing housing and
3. There is no other solution and a move to a more suitable property would enable independence or access to essential facilities.

In other words, we need to assess whether the current accommodation is unsuitable for your son in view of his health **and to what extent**. In summary, applicants are eligible for 'medical priority' where a move would enable independence or improve access to essential facilities, for someone whose health or independence is **significantly** compromised by their existing housing.

Please also note that, due to lack of social housing in general and accessible properties in particular; even if awarded 'medical priority' you could face a long wait and re-housing cannot be guaranteed. Accordingly, it is highly advisable to explore the alternative options. Please let me know if you wish to discuss these options.

Please also note that your ability to join the Housing Register depends on the outcome of the H&D assessment. This is because under the current Allocation Scheme, we are unable to register applicants with low or no priority. There is nothing to suggest you qualify for any other category of high priority. It follows that you would be unable to register; unless awarded 'medical priority'.

I will close the enquiry with me; unless I hear from you by 12/05/2017. You could still contact me on [REDACTED] to discuss this letter or if you wish to explore the alternative options. If you cannot get through to me; please leave a detailed message with the Housing Opportunities Team with your full name; the reference number and preferred contact number. Alternatively, you can contact the Housing Opportunities Team at any time on [REDACTED] to proceed and that case could be re-opened, if needed.

I will be unable to see you without a pre-arranged appointment. If you wish to see me; please contact me to arrange an appointment. Please do not turn up at the Town Hall without an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Sisi Gast  
Housing Opportunities Team