

# **Grenfell Tower Inquiry**

**Paul Hyett, HKS Architects Ltd**

**Supplemental Report**

**September 2020**

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## **0.0 Preamble and Background Information**

### **0.1 The Author: Abbreviated C.V. and Team Description**

0.1.1 My name is Paul Hyett.

0.1.2 I am a Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. My Membership Number is 4425140. I was President of the RIBA for two years from September 2000 to August 2002.

0.1.3 I am a Registered Architect: My UK Registration Number is 046384A.

0.1.4 I trained at the Architectural Association from where I graduated in summer 1978.

0.1.5 Between 2004 and 2020 I was a Principal in HKS Architects. I retired from HKS in June 2020 in order to set up an independent consultancy.

0.1.6 HKS is an international firm of architects offering a broad range of professional services across a wide variety of building sectors.

0.1.7 I was helped in carrying out research for this report by various members of HKS Architects.

0.1.8 Whilst I have benefited from this assistance I confirm, however, that this report has been prepared and written by me, that the opinions developed within it are mine, and that the views expressed within it together with its conclusions are mine and mine alone.

### **0.2 Inquiry Terms of Reference**

0.2.1 The Terms of Reference for '*The Grenfell Tower Inquiry*' define the scope of its investigations. They were set by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2017.

0.2.2 Those Terms of Reference are as follows:

0.2.3 To examine the circumstances surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017, including:

- (a) the immediate cause or causes of the fire and the means by which it spread to the whole of the building;
- (b) the design and construction of the building and the decisions relating to its modification, refurbishment and management;

- (c) the scope and adequacy of building regulations, fire regulations and other legislation, guidance and industry practice relating to the design, construction, equipping and management of high-rise residential buildings;
  - (d) whether such regulations, legislation, guidance and industry practice were complied with in the case of Grenfell Tower and the fire safety measures adopted in relation to it;
  - (e) the arrangements made by the local authority or other responsible bodies for receiving and acting upon information either obtained from local residents or available from other sources (including information derived from fires in other buildings) relating to the risk of fire at Grenfell Tower, and the action taken in response to such information;
  - (f) the fire prevention and fire safety measures in place at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017;
  - (g) the response of the London Fire Brigade to the fire; and
  - (h) the response of central and local government in the days immediately following the fire.
- 0.2.4 My report is intended to assist the Inquiry with respect to b), c) and d) of the Terms of Reference.
- 0.2.5 In his Opening Statement, the Chairman indicated that he intended to conduct the Inquiry in two phases. The first phase of the Inquiry was principally concerned with the events on the night of the fire.
- 0.2.6 The second phase will deal with a wider range of issues including close examination of the work of those parties involved in the modifications to the original construction of Grenfell Tower, especially those modifications undertaken between 2012 and 2016, the most significant part of which was the over-cladding of the building.

### 0.3 My Role and My Instructions

0.3.1 I am one of a series of experts who have been appointed across a wide field of specialisms in order to assist the Inquiry with its work.

0.3.2 I was instructed as an expert to the Grenfell Inquiry by way of letter dated 15 October 2018.

0.3.3 I quote from my letter of instruction:

1. *As far as reasonably practical investigate and familiarize yourself with the original design, specification and 'as executed' original construction, as well as any subsequent alterations to the building as carried out prior to the 2012-2016 refurbishment.*
2. *Investigate and comment upon the Architect's initial terms of appointment for the 2012-2016 refurbishment, including the scope of services and any subsequent variations thereto. To the extent relevant and insofar as it falls within your expertise, investigate and comment upon services carried out by others that would normally fall within the scope of an architect.*
3. *Investigate and report on the development of the design as prepared by the Architect from concept through to the final design:*
  - a. *the Planning Application(s);*
  - b. *the Building Regulation Application(s);*
  - c. *the Tender Stage documents (Main Contractor);*
  - d. *the Sub-Contractor 'Package' Documentation;*
  - e. *the design and specification that was ultimately adopted;*
  - f. *Any relevant variations during the course of the works; and*
  - g. *Any advice given by the architect during the course of the works.*

*In particular, please comment upon the selection and specification of materials and construction systems and their incorporation into the overall design.*

4. *Advise as to whether the documentation as 'issued to contract' (including any variations as issued by/authorised by the Architect) and any ad hoc advice given during the course of the 2012-2016 refurbishment complied in technical terms with the requirements of all relevant construction regulations, relevant guidance documents and with the standards of service to be reasonably expected of an architect who had agreed to undertake a commission of this type, complexity and scale.*
  5. *Establish as far as is possible from the available information whether the 'as built' condition of the building complied with the documentation as 'issued to contract' by the Architect (including any variations as issued by/authorised by the Architect). In this respect you are to comment both in terms of the standards of the workmanship, and the compliance of the work with the Architect's documentation as issued, and with subsequent variations as may have been instructed by the Architect.*
  6. *Insofar as any departures to the required standards are identified give your opinion as to whether such irregularities should have been identified by the Architect under the scope of his appointment and in the context of the standards of service to be reasonably expected of an architect who had agreed to undertake a commission of this type, complexity and scale.*
- 0.3.4 With respect to issue 5, commentary on the standard of the workmanship, I am unable to add anything of substance to what has already been set out in Dr Lane's Phase 1 report. I have only had the opportunity to make two relatively short visits to, and in consequence, brief inspections of, the building.
- 0.3.5 The purpose of my visits to Grenfell Tower was principally for the purposes of familiarisation and general '*orientation*'. It was not possible for me in that short time to make any comprehensive inspection of the workmanship carried out during the 2012-16 Works. In addition, as will become clear from this report, the key issues that I have identified and which I believe are material in terms of the issues the Inquiry is investigating relate to the selection of materials and the design of the over-cladding works during the 2012- 2016 refurbishment.
- 0.3.6 I have been asked to deal with "Part Two" of my instruction letter (that is: '*Recommendations about what, if any, changes could be made to the relevant legislation, regulations, guidance, and/or industry practice...*') within a separate report which will be served later in Phase 2.
- 0.3.7 The main focus of my attention is upon the 2012-2016 Works because it is these works that comprised the '*rainscreen over-cladding*' which formed the new exterior wall at Grenfell Tower, and which had such devastating effects in terms of fire spread.

## **0.4 Disclosure of Interests**

- 0.4.1 I have spent most of my 40-year career as a practicing architect based in London. During that time, I have personally led projects where Max Fordham LLP, who were appointed as services engineers on the 2012-16 refurbishment works carried out at Grenfell Tower, were appointed.
- 0.4.2 Although I was not personally involved, HKS has been involved in projects where Exova have been engaged separately to provide specialist fire consultancy advice.
- 0.4.3 To the best of my knowledge I have had no direct or indirect involvement with any of the other consultants who were appointed as part of the 2012-16 refurbishment works at Grenfell Tower.
- 0.4.4 Prior to being incorporated into HKS, my own firm, Paul Hyett Architects, designed the Building Research Establishment's Fire Research Testing Facility (the Burn Hall) at Garston in 1995. I have no knowledge of, or relationship with, any of the existing staff at the facility.
- 0.4.5 Both myself and HKS have worked on a variety of projects where Arup has acted as engineers. This includes one project, Heron Quays, where the external façade comprised, in part, a rainscreen cladding system.
- 0.4.6 I do not consider any of the above relationships or interactions to have caused any conflicts of interest, nor do I foresee any possibility of any future conflicts of interests arising as a result, with respect to either my investigations in relation to this Inquiry, or to the expression of my views as contained herein.

## **0.5 Disclaimer**

- 0.5.1 This report has been prepared in order to assist proceedings at the Grenfell Public Inquiry. Whilst I understand the report will be made available to the Core Participants and their legal advisors and, in due course, it will be made available on the Inquiry website, it is in all other respects confidential.
- 0.5.2 This report may not either in whole or in part be used, reproduced or circulated for any other purpose without my written consent.
- 0.5.3 I do not accept any responsibility to third parties for the unauthorised use of this report.



## 0.6 Statement of Truth

- 0.6.1 I confirm that I have made clear which facts and matters referred to in this report are within my own knowledge and which are not. Those that are within my own knowledge I confirm to be true. The opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinions on the matters to which they refer.

**Signature:**

**Date:** 5 October 2020

**Name in Full:** Paul David Etheridge Hyett



## 0.7 Declaration

- 0.7.1 I understand that my duty in providing this written report and evidence to assist the Inquiry, and that this duty overrides any duty to any other party.
- 0.7.2 I confirm that I have no conflict of interest of any kind, other than any which I have already set out in this summary of findings. I do not consider that any interest which I have disclosed affects my suitability to give expert evidence to the Inquiry on any issue on which I have given evidence and I will advise the Inquiry if, between the date of this summary and the Inquiry hearings, there is any change in circumstances which affects this statement.