

Independent Expert Advisory Panel – Updated Terms of Reference

The Independent Expert Panel will provide independent advice to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in relation to his response to the Grenfell fire. It does not seek to duplicate or prejudice the outcomes of the public inquiry and police investigation, but will help government ascertain if any immediate actions need to be taken in light of the Grenfell Tower fire, to ensure the safety of the public.

The Panel will:

- Focus on providing advice on questions set by the Secretary of State relating to fire and building safety in high rise buildings, and in particular how to ensure the public are safe in their homes and public buildings.
- Advise on fire safety issues in relation to Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding systems, Fire Doors, other construction safety products, and other building safety implications in relation to social housing, private rented housing, and public buildings, as they arise.
- Provide expert advice and insight, when required, to assist the department in enabling the implementation of the Hackitt Review.
- Consider any further actions needed, as information is received from the Metropolitan Police investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire.
- Provide the department with advice on safety implications raised in the expert witness reports submitted to the Grenfell Tower public inquiry.
- Consider whether there are any immediate actions that should be taken to ensure the safety of existing high rise buildings.
- Engage other experts – to be agreed with MHCLG - as required to ensure a responsive and dynamic approach, as developments arise.

Areas out of scope:

- The panel will not decide government policy – it will provide advice to SoS MHCLG.
- The panel will not cut across the public inquiry or police investigation into the Grenfell fire - it will address any immediate steps that need to be taken ahead of any interim reports or findings of the inquiry.
- The panel will not provide specific advice on remedial actions to individual owners of buildings which are found to have failed safety tests. Public authorities and private building owners will continue to take advice from the fire services on the most appropriate actions to take to ensure fire safety in each case. Where the panel has more general recommendations in relation to remedial actions, it will recommend them to government in the usual way.

How the Panel will work:

- The Panel's role is temporary and its longevity will depend on safety issues arising and the frequency of meetings is subject to change on this basis. The next review of the Panel's role will be in Spring 2019.
- Information will be shared with the panel from all of the information gathering exercises government is undertaking. Any information that the Panel gathers through its own means should be shared with government, to inform policy development now and in the future.
- The Panel will work with government to agree what information will be made public about their recommendations.



Panel membership (as of August 2018):

The Panel will draw on specialist skills as required and will be chaired by Sir Ken Knight, former London Fire Commissioner and former Government Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser.

Other core members of the panel will be:

- Roy Wilsher, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council; and
- Ann Bentley, Global Director of Rider Levett Bucknall.
- Colin Bailey, President and Principal of Queen Mary University of London

Additional members will be appointed with the agreement of the Chair of the Panel and the Secretary of State.