



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
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***Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government***

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Dear All,

Update on Investigation at Grenfell Tower

It is now nine months since the Grenfell tragedy, and we wanted to assure you that Government remains committed to providing victims with the support they need both now and in the future.

As you are aware, the Metropolitan Police Service has been running a comprehensive investigation into what happened at Grenfell Tower. As part of this investigation, the Metropolitan Police Service has been examining the doors within the property.

We are writing to you to inform you that, the police have advised my department, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, that as part of this process they found a fire door recovered from Grenfell Tower did not meet the fire resistance performance expected under building regulations guidance.

The Metropolitan Police Service has contacted those who were bereaved as a result of the fire, and have also written out to members of the community who may be impacted regarding their investigation.

We want to assure you that further investigations have been initiated and the Government's independent Expert Panel has been consulted. They have sought additional advice from the police, the fire service, scientists and other partners to determine whether this is an isolated case in relation to this particular door or a flaw across a wider set. We will closely monitor developments and consider necessary next steps.

The Expert Panel have advised that the risk to public safety is low, and that evidence from the investigation and tests to date does not change this assessment. Fires rarely spread beyond the room of origin and fire doors are one part of a suite of fire protection measures used in buildings. However, we fully understand the further distress this news may cause given the scale of the trauma that survivors and bereaved families have suffered already.

The Government's position is clear; action must be taken to understand why this door has failed a fire resistance test.

The Government had already commissioned Dame Judith Hackitt to conduct an independent review of building regulations and fire safety following the fire at Grenfell Tower. Dame Judith has been made aware of the findings and we have also informed the Public Inquiry, so that their analysis of the causes of the fire is led by the most accurate information available.

Public safety is paramount. The Government has also published fire safety guidance and Roy Wilsher, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council has confirmed that this advice has not changed as a result of the investigation to date. In the event of a fire, people should continue to follow existing fire procedures for their property. Further investigations will take some time but I, the Secretary of State for Housing, am committed to providing an update at the end of April and we will write out again then to keep you informed.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

RT HON NICK HURD MP