

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP**

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

**Date: 01 OCT 2018**

*Dear Matt,*

I am writing to urge you to put in place an effective, ongoing process for meeting the health needs of those most affected by the horrific fire at Grenfell Tower, following Dr Fiona Wilcox's letter on the subject to NHS England recently. I share Dr Wilcox's concerns for the future impacts of the tragedy on survivors' physical and mental health and I am grateful to her for raising them.

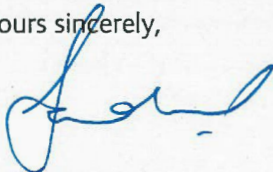
The events at Grenfell Tower in June 2017 will leave lasting scars on the community of north Kensington. The bereaved families, survivors and local residents may never fully recover, but it is our job as public servants to do everything possible to support them to rebuild their lives.

Of particular concern to families is the potential impact of the smoke that people inhaled. Whilst I am aware that tests found only a small risk to health from the asbestos, families need confidence that any problems will be picked up at the earliest possible stage. I am also aware that the trauma and psychological impact of this event may take time to manifest in poor mental health and wellbeing, and again families need to be confident that they can access timely care and support when required.

The NHS emergency response in the immediate aftermath, as well as the health and care services provided over the past year, have been delivered with compassion and professionalism. During the commemoration hearings, I witnessed for myself the excellence of the NHS staff who were on hand to provide support. I am also aware that a different type of service response is now needed, and that ongoing support for people's physical and mental health will be required that picks up any emerging problems promptly.

I would like assurance that plans are in place to meet the ongoing mental and physical health needs of affected families, as set out in Dr Wilcox's letter to Simon Stevens. Your confirmation of how the NHS will support them will give them the peace of mind they need to begin to rebuild their lives, knowing they can access care and support when required.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London

Cc: Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England  
Jo Johnson MP, Minister for London  
Rt Hon Gavin Barwell, Chief of Staff, 10 Downing Street