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THE PRIME MINISTER

7 February 2020

Dear Sir Martin,

On Monday 27 January, in your opening remarks of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Inquiry hearings, you confirmed that, in the interests of the Inquiry, Ms Benita Mehra had decided to step down from the Inquiry panel.

I am writing to you now to confirm that it is my intention to appoint a new panel member. My predecessor as Prime Minister committed to appointing two additional panel members to ensure that the panel has the necessary breadth of skills and diversity of expertise relevant to the broad range of issues being considered in Phase 2. I share this commitment and hope to appoint a new panel member following a recruitment exercise.

I note that Section 7 (1) (a) of the Inquiries Act 2005 (the Act) recognises that panel members can be appointed at any time during the course of an inquiry to fill a vacancy that has arisen in the panel.

Cabinet Office officials will now engage the services of a search company to identify a shortlist of suitable candidates as a matter of urgency. As soon as a suitable new panel member has been identified, I will write to you seeking your consent, under section 7 (2)(b) of the Act, to the appointment.

*Yours sincerely
Boris Johnson*

The Right Honourable Sir Martin Moore-Bick