

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

8 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for your letter of 2 June 2020 outlining the progress that the Government is making towards implementing the recommendations in my Phase 1 report. The statement published by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is welcome and my team and I are heartened by the steps that are being taken by the Government and others to improve the safety of buildings generally, and in particular high-rise residential buildings. However, as your letter and the statement recognise, there is more to be done and I should be most grateful if you would continue to keep me informed of progress.

It is unfortunate that the Covid-19 pandemic forced the Inquiry to suspend hearings in March, but in the meantime my team has been continuing its work and we are currently making plans to enable hearings to resume in early July, provided it is safe to do so. I am confident that by reducing to a bare minimum the number of people who need to be physically present, by making appropriate travelling arrangements for staff and witnesses and by careful organisation of the Inquiry's premises we can manage the risk of infection in a way that does not expose those involved to an unacceptable degree of risk. If we are able to take evidence throughout July, that will go some way towards reducing the effect of the restrictions on our overall timetable.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Moore-Birch